

ANALYSIS AND TABULAR SUMMARY
OF STATE LAWS

RELATING TO

JURISDICTION IN CHILDREN'S CASES AND
CASES OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS
IN THE UNITED STATES

BY

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,
CHILDREN'S BUREAU.

Washington, September 5, 1929.

SIR: There is transmitted herewith an analysis and tabular summary of State laws relating to jurisdiction in children's cases and cases of domestic relations. This material was compiled for use in a study of the administration of justice in the field of domestic relations, the results of which are being published in two parts under the general title *The Child, the Family, and the Court*. Part I, General Findings and Recommendations, has already been issued. Part II, Organization and Administration of Courts Dealing with Family Problems, is in preparation.

The legal research carried on in connection with the study was under the general direction of Bernard Flexner and Reuben Oppenheimer, members of the bar of New York and Baltimore, and Katharine F. Lenroot, of the Children's Bureau. Geoffrey May compiled the laws of the States and Territories relating to jurisdiction and procedure in juvenile and domestic-relations cases. The laws were then summarized State by State by Dr. Sheldon Glueck, of the department of social ethics of Harvard University. The compilation and summaries furnished basic material for the studies of court systems in selected communities. Even when summarized this legal material is too voluminous to be published in full. It is presented here in the form of a chart and brief analysis prepared by Freda Ring Lyman, of the staff of the Children's Bureau. Entries on the chart for each State have been verified by some State official, and many judges of juvenile and domestic-relations courts have assisted in interpreting legal provisions. The bureau is deeply indebted to all these lawyers and officials for their valuable cooperation.

Respectfully submitted.

HON. JAMES J. DAVIS,
Secretary of Labor.

GRACE ABBOTT, *Chief.*

ANALYSIS AND TABULAR SUMMARY OF STATE LAWS RELATING TO JURISDICTION IN CHILDREN'S CASES AND CASES OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

JURISDICTION IN CHILDREN'S CASES AND CASES OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS

COURT SYSTEMS GIVEN JURISDICTION

In the District of Columbia and most of the States of the Union original and appellate jurisdiction in criminal and civil cases is vested in courts that may be classified as follows (see Column I of the tabular summary, p. 10):

1. A State supreme court having appellate jurisdiction only or having both original and appellate jurisdiction.

2. Courts of general criminal and civil jurisdiction, usually serving counties or districts composed of several counties, with authority to try criminal cases on indictment by the grand jury or on information, civil cases, juvenile cases in some States, and cases appealed from lower courts.

3. Courts with probate jurisdiction, termed county, probate, or orphans' courts, some having criminal, civil, and juvenile jurisdiction also.

4. Courts of summary jurisdiction, criminal, civil, or both criminal and civil, that have power to dispose of less important cases immediately and to hold the more serious cases for the grand jury or the court of general jurisdiction.

5. Justices of the peace, police magistrates, and mayors having the authority of peace officers, with summary jurisdiction as outlined in paragraph 4.

6. Special tribunals created to deal with certain classes of cases, such as juvenile courts and courts of domestic relations, some of which are independent and some of which are parts of other court systems.

In criminal cases of the grade of felony, and in some States of the grade of misdemeanor also, and frequently in the quasi-criminal offense of bastardy, the preliminary examination may be conducted by any justice of the peace, peace magistrate, or court of inferior criminal jurisdiction, the defendant to be held for the grand jury if probable cause is found. If the grand jury returns a true bill, the case goes for trial to the court of general criminal jurisdiction.

The judicial organization in some States is much simpler than that outlined in the foregoing paragraph, and in many it is more complicated. A number of special courts have been created to serve particular localities. As is pointed out in *The Child, the Family, and the Court*,¹ this country seems to take a peculiar zest in the formation of new courts, and many States have courts which do not coordinate with other judicial units but whose jurisdiction overlaps theirs in every particular, though this condition is by no means nation-

wide. Local courts may or may not have jurisdiction concurrent with courts of general jurisdiction, such as district or circuit courts. Justices of the peace may not have jurisdiction in cities in which municipal courts have been established. The name of the court may give little or no indication of its character or jurisdiction, as is illustrated by the hustings court of Richmond, Va., which deals with divorce cases and adoption, and by the insolvency court of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, which may be designated as the juvenile court. Sometimes the actual situation is less complex than that indicated by the number of courts in a locality. For example, in most counties of New Jersey the same judge presides over the courts of common pleas, quarter sessions, and special sessions, and the juvenile and domestic-relations court (except where a special judge is provided for this court), and he may be judge of the orphans' court as well.

In most States jurisdiction in juvenile and domestic-relations cases is divided among (1) specialized juvenile, family, or domestic-relations courts, (2) criminal courts, and (3) courts of probate and chancery jurisdiction. In only one State is jurisdiction over the various types of cases that are included in the analysis and tabular summary, exclusive of specific offenses against children,² vested in only one court. In the District of Columbia and 15 States it is divided among two or three courts; in 14 States, four or five courts may have jurisdiction; in 15 States, six or seven courts; and in 4 States, eight or more courts.³ Specific offenses against children are classed as misdemeanors or felonies and are usually dealt with by any criminal court having jurisdiction over the grade of offense indicated.

The number of courts having jurisdiction in each State is as follows: 1 court in Arizona; 2 in Kentucky, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Washington; 3 in California, Kansas, Louisiana, North Dakota, Oregon, and Wyoming; 4 in Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin; 5 in Massachusetts, New Mexico, and North Carolina; 6 in Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia; 7 in Arkansas, Delaware, Iowa, Maine, Tennessee, and Virginia; 8 in Missouri and South Carolina; 10 in New York; and 13 in New Jersey.

Although two or more courts may be given jurisdiction over the same type of case, this does not mean

² The following types of cases were included in making the count: Delinquent, dependent, and neglected children; minor offenders over delinquency age dealt with under special legislation; contributing to delinquency and dependency; desertion and nonsupport; establishment of paternity and support of children born out of wedlock; annulment of marriage, divorce, and separate maintenance; adoption and guardianship; and the commitment of mentally defective children. The legislation analyzed in this report is that in force Jan. 1, 1929, except that certain laws of 1929 in New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, and Tennessee have been included.

³ Juvenile and domestic-relations courts that are divisions of larger courts have not been counted as separate courts. Possibly some local courts operating under special laws or ordinances not published in the codes have been omitted. It has been impossible to ascertain in every instance whether city and municipal courts should be considered one or two types of court, and the same is true of justices of the peace and police courts. In the absence of information to the contrary, they have been counted as two courts. Not all the courts authorized by law are operating in all jurisdictions, and in some instances several courts are presided over by the same judge and served by the same staff.

¹ *The Child, the Family, and the Court; a study of the administration of justice in the field of domestic relations*, pt. 1, by Bernard Flexner, Reuben Oppenheimer, and Katharine F. Lenroot, p. 27. U. S. Children's Bureau Publication No. 193, Washington, 1929.

that they all exercise such jurisdiction. By custom or agreement all or nearly all the cases of a particular type may be referred to one court.⁴

JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT SYSTEMS

The juvenile court or the combined juvenile and domestic-relations court may be independent or part of a court of criminal or probate jurisdiction, either a specially organized branch or a special session with a separate docket. In a number of States the counties or cities of different populations have different juvenile-court systems. Except in a few States, independent courts are usually found only in urban centers. In some States the judges of several courts serving the same community are directed to designate one of their number to serve as juvenile judge. Column II of the tabular summary (p. 10) shows the court system given jurisdiction in juvenile cases and the family courts and courts of domestic relations created by State legislation.

Independent juvenile courts, not including family courts with juvenile jurisdiction, have been established in the District of Columbia and 19 States, as follows: Alabama (counties of 95,000–175,000 population), Arkansas (state-wide, county judges presiding), Colorado (Denver), Connecticut (where town, city, borough, or police court has been established), Delaware (Wilmington and New Castle County), Florida (6 counties), Georgia (counties of 60,000 population or more, permissive in counties of 35,000–60,000), Indiana (counties containing a city of 100,000), Iowa (state-wide, district-court judges presiding unless they designate superior-court or municipal-court judges to preside), Kansas (state-wide), Louisiana (2 parishes), Maryland (1 city, 2 counties), Massachusetts (Boston central court district), New Mexico (state-wide, district judge presiding), New York (state-wide, except 3 counties and 1 city), North Carolina (cities of 10,000 or more, certain towns and counties), South Carolina (1 county), Tennessee (4 counties and 3 cities), Utah (state-wide).

In the remaining States, also in those parts of the 19 in which independent juvenile courts have been established in certain localities only, there is no uniformity in selecting the courts to which juvenile jurisdiction is granted, although courts serving a county are most frequently vested with juvenile jurisdiction. Family courts with juvenile and domestic-relations jurisdiction have been established in 9 States.⁵ In 6 of these the court is independent: Alabama (counties of 75,000–95,000 population and of 200,000 or more), New Jersey (state-wide), North Carolina (1 county), Tennessee (1 county), Virginia (state-wide), and West Virginia (2 counties). In 3 States this court is part of another court, as follows: Missouri (division of circuit court, in 1 city), Ohio (division of court of common pleas, in 7 counties), and Oregon (department of circuit court, in counties of 100,000 population or more). Domestic-relations courts without juvenile jurisdiction have been established by State law in two States, as follows: Newark, N. J. (independent court); Buffalo, N. Y. (a branch of the city court), and New York City (a branch of the magistrate's court).⁶

As evidence of interest in the development of family courts it may be noted that between January 1 and

June 30, 1929, family courts with juvenile and domestic-relations jurisdiction were established in 3 States (New Jersey, North Carolina, and Tennessee), and the independent family court of Multnomah County, Oreg., was made part of the circuit court and its jurisdiction enlarged to include divorce cases which are uncontested or which involve children under the age of 18 years. New Jersey created independent family courts throughout the State with jurisdiction over delinquent, truant, dependent, and neglected children, contributing to delinquency or dependency, desertion and nonsupport, establishment of paternity, the commitment of mentally defective children, and also mothers' aid. In counties other than those of the first class these courts are presided over by judges of the court of common pleas except where a special judge has been appointed. North Carolina passed a law applicable to Mecklenburg County (which includes the city of Charlotte), establishing an independent court with jurisdiction over delinquent, dependent, neglected, and defective children; school-attendance cases; custody of children, including investigation and recommendation in questions of custody in divorce proceedings; contributing to delinquency or dependency; nonsupport and desertion; assault and battery on husband, wife, or child; bastardy; knowingly receiving stolen goods from child; and preliminary investigation and recommendation in adoption proceedings. Tennessee created an independent juvenile and domestic-relations court in Hamilton County (which includes the city of Chattanooga) with jurisdiction over delinquent, dependent, and neglected children, school-attendance cases, nonsupport and desertion, and divorce and alimony.

JURISDICTION IN CASES OF DELINQUENCY, DEPENDENCY, AND NEGLECT

Age limits of jurisdiction.

In the standards drafted by the committee on juvenile-court standards appointed by the Children's Bureau in 1921 it was recommended that the age limit under which the court may obtain jurisdiction in children's cases should be not less than 18 years.⁷ As is shown in Column III of the tabular summary (p. 10), in 15 States and parts of 2 others the delinquency jurisdiction of the juvenile court or the family court with juvenile jurisdiction includes boys and girls under 18 years of age;⁸ in 5 States it includes boys under 17 and girls under 18;⁹ and in 1 State (Indiana) and part of another (Alabama) it includes boys under 16 and girls under 18. In part of 1 State (Maryland) the jurisdiction includes girls under 18 and boys under 20. In 3 States (Arkansas, California, and Iowa) and in part of another (Denver, Colo.) this jurisdiction includes persons under the age of 21 years. In 1 State with jurisdiction to 18 years (Nevada), persons over 18 but under 21 years of age may be dealt with as delinquent under certain conditions. (See p. 20.) Thus in 19 States and parts of 2 others the delinquency jurisdiction of the juvenile or family court includes both boys and girls to the age of 18 years or a higher age, and in 6 additional States and parts of a seventh (Alabama) it includes girls to the age of 18. In many States, however, this court does not have exclusive jurisdiction over children of these ages. (See p. 3.)

⁴ See the discussions of jurisdiction exercised in practice by the 26 courts included in the study reported in *The Child, the Family, and the Court*, pt. 2 (U. S. Children's Bureau publication in preparation).

⁵ In Oklahoma a law of 1925 authorized family courts in counties of 90,000 population, but in 1929 no such courts had been established in the only counties of this size (Oklahoma and Tulsa).

⁶ A tabular analysis of family courts and courts of domestic relations in the United States (except those created in 1929 in New Jersey, North Carolina, and Tennessee) has been included in *The Child, the Family, and the Court*, pt. 1, pp. 65–67 (U. S. Children's Bureau Publication No. 193, Washington, 1929).

⁷ Juvenile Court Standards; report of the committee appointed by the Children's Bureau, August, 1921, to formulate juvenile-court standards, adopted by a conference held under the auspices of the Children's Bureau and the National Probation Association, Washington, D. C., May 18, 1923, p. 2. U. S. Children's Bureau Publication No. 121. Washington, 1923.

⁸ Arizona, Idaho, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia; parts of Colorado and South Carolina.

⁹ Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky, Texas, Wisconsin.

Delinquency jurisdiction extends to children under 17 in the District of Columbia, 6 States, and parts of 2 others.¹⁰ In 11 States and parts of 4 others the delinquency jurisdiction of the juvenile or family court extends only to children under the age of 16,¹¹ though in 1 of these (Alabama) cases of children between 16 and 18 may be transferred to the juvenile court and in another (New York) truants under 17 are within the jurisdiction of the children's court. (See p. 22.) In still another (Georgia) a section in the law authorizes the transfer of children under 17 or under 18, according to sex, to the juvenile court, but does not indicate which limit applies to which sex. Two States (Maine and Wyoming) have no juvenile-court laws, but the procedure in cases of children under 17 is somewhat modified in Maine, and in Wyoming the definition of dependent and neglected children includes those under 16 years, and that of delinquent children includes persons under the age of 21 years.

In 6 States the age limit of juvenile or family court jurisdiction in dependency and neglect cases is lower than the age limit in delinquency cases,¹² and in 1 State (Rhode Island) it is higher. No valid reason seems to exist for this difference nor for different age limits in boys' and girls' cases.

Nature of jurisdiction.

The juvenile-court standards previously mentioned recommended that the juvenile court have exclusive jurisdiction over delinquent children, including all children charged with violations of law, and over all cases of dependency and neglect requiring court action.¹³ In the District of Columbia, in 37 States, and in parts of another State the juvenile court or the family court has exclusive jurisdiction over delinquent children under the age limit specified and subject to certain exceptions or modifications.¹⁴ (See the following section.) In 3 of these States, however, two or more courts in the same community may sit as juvenile courts.¹⁵ In 4 of the States that have high age limits (see p. 2) the jurisdiction of the juvenile court is exclusive to a specified age but concurrent with reference to older children of specified ages.¹⁶ Jurisdiction in cases of delinquent children, moreover, is concurrent with that of criminal courts in 3 States and parts of another,¹⁷ and in 1 State (Arkansas) it is exclusive if the child is arrested without a warrant but concurrent if he is arrested upon a warrant. In 1 State (New Mexico)¹⁸ the juvenile court has jurisdiction over delinquency cases only, but the judge of the court that hears cases of dependency and neglect presides over the juvenile court.

Exceptions or modifications in juvenile and family court jurisdiction, and provisions for jury trial.

In 28 States and parts of 2 others it is possible for a child charged with any offense, no matter how serious, to be dealt with by the juvenile or family court. (See

Column V of the tabular summary, p. 10).¹⁸ In all but 2 of these (Connecticut and New Jersey) such jurisdiction is concurrent with that of criminal courts with reference to certain offenses or over children of specified ages, or the juvenile-court judge has discretion—in certain cases at least—to permit trial under criminal procedure. This usually means transfer to another court or to the criminal session of the court that has a juvenile session or branch, perhaps presided over by the same judge. In 4 of these 28 States (Arkansas, Colorado, Mississippi, Missouri), although the juvenile or family court has jurisdiction without regard to the type of offense, the criminal courts have jurisdiction also and may try children under criminal procedure without giving the juvenile or family court an opportunity to deal with such cases. In parts of another of the 28 States (Minnesota) the authority of the court that sits in juvenile session is limited, with reference to delinquent children, to remanding to the criminal court and to appointing guardians from among specified institutions and organizations.

Offenses punishable by life imprisonment or death are excluded from the jurisdiction of the juvenile or family court in 11 States and parts of another;¹⁹ in 1 of these (California) this exception applies only to persons over 18 but under 21. Jurisdiction over certain other of the more serious offenses has been withheld from the juvenile court in the District of Columbia and 5 States.²⁰

Trial by jury on demand or in the discretion of the judge is authorized in the District of Columbia, 22 States, and parts of 2 others.²¹ This may remove the case from the juvenile or family court. Trial by jury in children's cases was condemned by the Children's Bureau committee on juvenile-court standards as "inconsistent with both the law and the theory upon which children's codes are founded."²²

OFFENSES OF MINORS OVER DELINQUENCY AGE

It is significant that 7 of the 16 States in all or part of which the delinquency jurisdiction—in boys' cases, at least—extends only to children under the age of 16 years (see pp. 2, 3) have made some special provision for young offenders over this age, as follows:

In Alabama cases of children between 16 and 18 years of age may be transferred to the juvenile court in certain counties, and cases of boys of this age may be transferred to the juvenile and domestic-relations court in certain other counties in which such a court has original jurisdiction of girls under 18. (See Column VI of the tabular summary, p. 10.) In the city and 2 counties of Maryland in which independent juvenile courts have been established the juvenile-court judge has the power of a police magistrate over minors under 18 years of age, although the delinquency age extends only to 16. In New Jersey the juvenile and domestic-relations court has the power to commit girls 16 and under 17 years of age to the State home for girls. In New Mexico, although the juvenile-

¹⁰ Florida, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire; parts of South Carolina and Tennessee.

¹¹ Connecticut, Georgia, Kansas, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont; parts of Alabama, Maryland, South Carolina, Tennessee.

¹² Indiana (girls' cases only), Massachusetts, Montana, Texas, West Virginia (boys' cases only), Wisconsin.

¹³ Juvenile-Court Standards, p. 1.

¹⁴ Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington; parts of West Virginia.

¹⁵ Illinois (except Cook County), Texas, Vermont.

¹⁶ California and Iowa, persons over 18 but under 21; Nebraska, children 16-18 (in certain counties two courts may act as juvenile courts in the same place); Wisconsin, boys 16 but under 17 and girls 16 but under 18.

¹⁷ Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire; parts of West Virginia.

¹⁸ Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin; parts of Maryland and New York.

¹⁹ California (including also attempt to commit such an offense), Delaware, Georgia, Iowa, Louisiana (including also—except in Orleans Parish—assault with intent to commit rape), Massachusetts, Montana, New York (except 1 county), Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee (including rape in certain jurisdictions), Vermont.

²⁰ Florida, New Hampshire, North Carolina, South Carolina, Utah.

²¹ Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin; parts of New York and South Carolina.

²² Juvenile-Court Standards, p. 6.

court age limit is 16, the court having jurisdiction of dependent and neglected children has in addition exclusive jurisdiction over girls under 18 who are immoral, incorrigible, or accused of any offense except murder; and no other court has any jurisdiction for even preliminary examination of such girls.²³ In New York truants under 17 are dealt with by the juvenile court, this jurisdiction being exclusive in certain counties and concurrent with that of courts of special sessions and police magistrates elsewhere. The New York law also defines the term "wayward minor," applicable to persons between the ages of 16 and 21, and gives jurisdiction to any court of criminal jurisdiction except justice of the peace. It provides that before commitment to an institution a wayward minor must, so far as practicable, be placed on probation not more than two years, or, if not a fit subject for probation, must be committed to a reformatory institution for an indeterminate period not to exceed three years. In a part of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia) the municipal court has exclusive jurisdiction over children not under 16 who disobey their parents' commands or are found idle in the streets, and over all disorderly children, defined as those deserting their homes without good and sufficient cause or keeping company with dissolute or vicious persons against the lawful commands of their fathers, mothers, or guardians, or other persons standing in the place of a parent. In Rhode Island wayward minors under 18 are within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.

Of the 13 States in which delinquency jurisdiction in children's cases or in boys' cases extends only to those under 17 years of age,²⁴ 3 have made some provision in regard to offenders between 16 or 17 and 21, as follows: Courts of inferior criminal jurisdiction in Massachusetts are given power to deal with minors between 16 and 21 (except married women) who have not completed the sixth grade and with "stubborn children." In Michigan the juvenile court has jurisdiction over wayward minors between 17 and 21 years of age, defined substantially as in the New York law, though with more detail. In Missouri minors 17 years of age or over who commit acts that would constitute delinquency if committed by a minor under 17 (including all offenses, however serious) may be tried for misdemeanor in any court of record (the juvenile courts are courts of record).

In 1 of the States with a comparatively high age limit in delinquency cases (Nevada) persons over 18 but under 21 years of age accused of felonies (except capital offenses or attempts to commit such offenses) may be dealt with as delinquents, in the discretion of the criminal court that has juvenile jurisdiction and with the consent of the defendant. After conviction in a criminal court such minors may be treated as delinquents.

In a part of 1 State (Denver, Colo.) the juvenile court, which has exclusive delinquency jurisdiction over children under 18 only, has concurrent criminal jurisdiction over minors 10 to 21 years of age.²⁵

²³ In 1929 the juvenile-court age was raised to 18 years for both sexes (N. Mex., Laws of 1929, ch. 74). This new legislation has not been included in the tabular summary.

²⁴ See footnotes 9 and 10, pp. 2 and 3.

²⁵ In addition to the States and cities noted, Chicago has developed without special law a boys' court branch of the municipal court to deal with boys between 17 and 21 years of age. (See *Youth and Crime; A Study of the Prevalence and Treatment of Delinquency among Boys over Juvenile-Court Age in Chicago*, by Dorothy Williams Burke, U. S. Children's Bureau Publication No. 196, 1930.) Cases of persons between 16 and 21 years, whether defendants or complainants, are dealt with by the morals court in Pittsburgh, Pa. Young defendants over juvenile-court age (16 years) in the city court of Waterbury, Conn., are heard in the court room used for juvenile cases.

CONTRIBUTING TO DELINQUENCY OR DEPENDENCY

Contributing to the delinquency or dependency of a child, including in some States such closely allied offenses as neglect or abuse of child by parent or other custodian, is made a specific offense in the District of Columbia and 43 States, although in 1 of these (South Carolina) this is a statutory offense in certain counties only and in 2 (Iowa and Massachusetts) only contributing to delinquency is specified. (See Column VII of the tabular summary, p. 10.)²⁶ The remaining 5 States have given no statutory recognition to this offense, but, of course, if the acts committed constitute crimes they are punishable under criminal statutes in these States as well as in the others. In 31 States, in parts of 6 others, and in the District of Columbia the juvenile court or the court that sits in juvenile session or has a juvenile or family division has at least concurrent jurisdiction over cases of contributing to delinquency or dependency.²⁷

The juvenile-court standards drafted by the committee appointed by the Children's Bureau recommend that the juvenile court should have exclusive jurisdiction over cases of contributing to delinquency and dependency. At the present time, though the juvenile court—or the family court with juvenile jurisdiction—hears cases of both contributing to delinquency and contributing to dependency in 15 States, parts of 9 other States, and the District of Columbia, this jurisdiction is exclusive in only the District of Columbia, 12 States, and parts of 6 others.²⁸ The juvenile or family court and criminal courts have concurrent jurisdiction in 2 States and parts of 7 others.²⁹ In New Jersey the juvenile and domestic-relations court has exclusive original jurisdiction over contributing to dependency and concurrent jurisdiction over contributing to delinquency. In still another (New Mexico) the juvenile court (which has jurisdiction over delinquents only) has exclusive jurisdiction over cases of contributing to delinquency, while the court that hears dependency cases has exclusive jurisdiction over cases of contributing to dependency.

In 5 States and parts of 3 others in which the juvenile court is a branch or special session of some other court,³⁰ the latter court has exclusive jurisdiction over cases of contributing to delinquency and dependency. In 2 States and parts of 7 others these courts have jurisdiction concurrent with that of other courts (but only over contributing to delinquency in 1 of these 5).³¹ In 1 State (Rhode Island) the court that sits in juvenile session has exclusive jurisdiction over cases of contributing to dependency or neglect, but its jurisdiction over contributing to delinquency is concurrent with

²⁶ In all the States except Delaware, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Vermont. The variance between figures in this section and those in *The Child, the Family, and the Court*, pt. 1, p. 29, is due to the inclusion in the present report of certain legislation of 1929 and to different interpretations occasioned by the receipt of new information in the months intervening between the issuance of the two publications. An Iowa law of 1929 (ch. 90) made the law regarding contributing to delinquency apply to contributing to dependency.

²⁷ Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin; parts of Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, South Carolina.

²⁸ Alabama, California, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Nevada, Ohio, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia, Washington; parts of Colorado (exclusive in civil proceedings, but concurrent in criminal proceedings), Minnesota, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, West Virginia. (See *Juvenile-Court Standards*, pp. 1-2.)

²⁹ Contributing to delinquency or dependency in Iowa (under 1929 law), Mississippi, and parts of Maryland, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, West Virginia; contributing to delinquency in parts of Massachusetts and Missouri.

³⁰ Arizona, Kentucky, Montana, Nebraska, Pennsylvania; parts of Colorado (jurisdiction exclusive in civil proceedings, concurrent in criminal proceedings), Texas, West Virginia.

³¹ Idaho, Wisconsin; parts of Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts (only contributing to delinquency), Missouri, New York, Oregon, Texas.

that of certain other courts. In another State (Connecticut) jurisdiction in cases of contributing to delinquency or dependency is vested in courts whose judges and other officers hold similar positions in the juvenile court in parts of the State but have no juvenile jurisdiction in the remainder of the State.

Both the States that have no juvenile-court system (Maine and Wyoming) have statutes making contributing to delinquency an offense, but in neither of them does the offense include the acts that generally fall within the classification of contributing to delinquency in the other States of the Union.

In the remaining 3 States and in parts of 4 mentioned in the foregoing paragraphs the offense of contributing to delinquency or dependency is a misdemeanor and may be dealt with by any court having jurisdiction over misdemeanors,³² and in the remaining parts of another State (Maryland) such jurisdiction is vested in courts that may try juvenile offenders under regular criminal procedure.

OFFENSES AGAINST CHILDREN

Many acts constitute offenses against children, but no attempt has been made in this study to classify these separately. They have been grouped as misdemeanors or felonies, and all courts having jurisdiction over these two groups of offenses have been listed in Column VIII of the tabular summary. (See p. 11.) In the following analysis juvenile or family courts having jurisdiction over a limited number of specific offenses only, such as abuse of children or violation of school-attendance and child-labor laws, were not included as having jurisdiction over offenses against children, nor were those included that have jurisdiction only to hold for trial in a higher court.

Juvenile or family courts have jurisdiction over offenses against children in the District of Columbia, 7 States, and parts of 7 others.³³ This jurisdiction (except in Denver, Colo.) includes only certain acts that constitute misdemeanors. Felony offenses against minors in 1 of these States (Washington) and in parts of 2 others (Louisiana and Ohio) may be brought before the court which sits in juvenile session or of which the juvenile court is a branch. In the remaining States and parts of States in this group, and also in the District of Columbia, only the criminal courts have jurisdiction over felonies. In most of these States the jurisdiction of the juvenile or family court or of the court of which it is a branch is concurrent with that of the criminal courts with reference to offenses against children. In the District of Columbia, in which the juvenile court has jurisdiction over certain misdemeanors, another court has jurisdiction over felonies. In 1 State (Wisconsin) and parts of another (Georgia) a court having jurisdiction over both misdemeanors and felonies may be designated as the juvenile court.

In 9 States and parts of 9 others in which the juvenile or family court has no jurisdiction over offenses against children the court that sits in juvenile session or that has a juvenile or family branch may try misde-

meanor and felony cases of offenses against children.³⁴ In 5 States and parts of 10 others it has jurisdiction over misdemeanor offenses but courts with no juvenile jurisdiction hear felony offenses.³⁵ In part of 1 State (Missouri) the court of which the family court is a branch hears cases of felony against children, but a court without juvenile jurisdiction hears cases of misdemeanor.

Persons committing offenses of either misdemeanor or felony grade against minors are tried by criminal courts without juvenile jurisdiction in 8 States and parts of 10 others.³⁶

In 1 of the 2 States that have no juvenile-court system (Wyoming) the court that hears delinquency cases deals with cases of offenses against minors. In the other (Maine), and also in those parts of Delaware and Maryland that have no juvenile courts, the criminal courts deal with both children's cases and cases of offenses against children.

DESERTION AND NONSUPPORT

Age of children.

Nonsupport, abandonment, and desertion are criminal offenses in the District of Columbia and all the States, some of which, as is shown in Column IX of the tabular summary (see p. 11), have legislation making it possible to deal with offenses of this character as either misdemeanors or felonies. A number of the statutes apply to the wife and all minor children; others are limited with respect to age or physical condition of the dependents. The maximum age of both boys and girls for whose benefit an action under such statutes can be brought in the District of Columbia, 16 States, and parts of another State³⁷ is lower than the maximum age under which they may be declared dependent in the juvenile or family court, and in 2 additional States such difference exists in regard to one sex only.³⁸ In 1 of the 16 States (New Hampshire) an action for the benefit of a child under 21 who is mentally or physically incapacitated for self-support may be instituted, and in another (Virginia) any child who is incapable of self-support comes within the benefits of the statute regardless of age.

In 1 State (Pennsylvania) in which the age limit for dependency actions in the juvenile court and for desertion or nonsupport actions is the same (16 years), children over 16 but under 21 who are incapable of self-support because of physical infirmity are likewise protected under the desertion and nonsupport laws.

Four States have higher age limits in nonsupport laws than in legislation relating to dependent children. The Alabama nonsupport and desertion law applies to children under 18 years of age but the juvenile-court laws apply to children under 16 only (except in counties

³² Arkansas, Michigan, Tennessee; parts of Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri. Juvenile courts, juvenile and domestic-relations courts, and courts having juvenile or domestic-relations sessions or branches have no jurisdiction over contributing to delinquency in these States and parts of States.

³³ Iowa, Louisiana, Ohio, Rhode Island, Utah, Virginia, Washington; parts of Alabama, Colorado, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina (certain offenses only), West Virginia. Jurisdiction in Iowa is over nonindictable offenses only; that is, offenses punishable by less than \$100 fine or less than 30 days' imprisonment. The variance between figures in this section and those in *The Child, the Family, and the Court*, pt. 1, p. 29, is due to the inclusion in the present report of certain legislation of 1929 and to different interpretations occasioned by the receipt of new information in the months intervening between the issuance of the two publications.

³⁴ Arizona, California, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Texas, Vermont; parts of Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, West Virginia (certain offenses).

³⁵ Idaho, Kentucky, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, South Dakota; parts of Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, West Virginia.

³⁶ Arkansas, Connecticut (but the judges are also the juvenile-court judges in most of the State), Iowa (except nonindictable misdemeanors), Kansas, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico (but the same court hears dependency cases), Tennessee; parts of Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, South Carolina.

³⁷ Colorado, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia, Washington; and parts of Tennessee. The variance between figures in this section and those in *The Child, the Family, and the Court*, pt. 1, p. 29, is due to inclusion in the present report of certain legislation of 1929 and to different interpretations occasioned by the receipt of new information in the months intervening between the issuance of the two publications.

³⁸ In Oregon the maximum age of boys for whose benefit a nonsupport action may be brought is 16 and that of girls is 18, the juvenile-court age limit being 18 for dependent children of both sexes. In West Virginia the maximum age of children for whose benefit a nonsupport action may be brought is 16, and the juvenile-court age limit is 16 for dependent boys but 18 for dependent girls.

of 75,000 to 95,000 population and counties of 200,000 or more, in which girls under 18 are dealt with by the juvenile and domestic-relations court). Illinois authorizes action for the support of a child under 18 (the age under which the juvenile court may deal with a girl as dependent), though the age limit for boys under the juvenile-court law of this State is 17 years. In North Carolina abandonment of children is made a continuing offense until the youngest living child is 18 years old, though the maximum age of dependency under the juvenile-court laws is 16 years. In Oklahoma one of several provisions relating to desertion and nonsupport makes it a misdemeanor to fail to provide for a child, the age not being specified. Although in this State the dependency jurisdiction of juvenile courts terminates at 16 years, this nonsupport provision apparently is being applied for the benefit of girls under 18 and boys under 21 when the parent has custody.

In the remaining 26 States (including the 2 that have no juvenile-court system) the age limit specified in nonsupport and desertion legislation is the same as that given as the maximum age in dependency cases (this being true also in parts of Tennessee) or no age limit is specifically mentioned.

Courts having jurisdiction.

In all except a few States the juvenile court or the court that sits in juvenile session or has a juvenile or family branch has at least concurrent jurisdiction over nonsupport and desertion, so that close coordination of juvenile and family case work is possible in cases of this type. In some States exclusive jurisdiction under a nonsupport or desertion statute is vested in a single court, though failure to support family may be dealt with under other provisions of law in other courts. For example, New York has several such provisions ranging from charges of disorderly conduct or vagrancy within the jurisdiction of justices of the peace, city courts, recorder's courts, and mayor's courts to the felony of abandonment of a child under 16 which is within the jurisdiction of the higher criminal courts only. Exclusive jurisdiction over cases of nonsupport or desertion of minor child is vested in the juvenile court or the family court with juvenile jurisdiction in only 2 States and parts of 5 others.³⁹ Its jurisdiction is concurrent with that of other courts in the District of Columbia, 5 States, and parts of 7 others.⁴⁰ In some of these States, however, in which the offense may be dealt with under various provisions, the juvenile court may not have jurisdiction under all of them. In 1 State (New Mexico) the court that has jurisdiction over neglected and dependent children is one of the two courts of criminal jurisdiction that hear cases of abandonment (but not cases of nonsupport).

Cases of nonsupport, abandonment, or desertion are heard exclusively by the court that sits in juvenile session or that has a juvenile or family branch in 6 States and parts of 5 others,⁴¹ and they may be heard by such court as well as by certain other courts in 7 States and parts of 9 others.⁴²

Jurisdiction over nonsupport and desertion is vested in courts having no juvenile jurisdiction in 9 States and

parts of 11 others,⁴³ although in 1 of these 9 States (Wisconsin) and in parts of 1 of the 11 States (Georgia) a court that hears cases of desertion and nonsupport may be designated as the juvenile court, and in 2 of them (Delaware and Maryland) the criminal courts that hear nonsupport and desertion cases also hear cases of juvenile offenders in those parts of the State in which no juvenile courts have been organized.

In the 2 States that have no juvenile-court system (Maine and Wyoming) criminal courts having jurisdiction over minors deal with nonsupport and desertion.

For classification as to character of the offense (misdemeanor or felony) and further details of jurisdiction in the various States see Column IX of the tabular summary, page 11.

ESTABLISHMENT OF PATERNITY AND SUPPORT OF CHILDREN BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK

All the States in the Union except three have enacted laws providing for legal proceedings to establish the paternity of children born out of wedlock. Jurisdiction over such cases is scattered among courts of various types from justices of the peace to courts of superior criminal jurisdiction. (See Column X of the tabular summary, p. 11.) The juvenile or family court has exclusive jurisdiction over these proceedings only in the District of Columbia and parts of 3 States, and concurrent jurisdiction in only 2 States and parts of 2 others.⁴⁴ In 11 States and parts of 8 others the court that sits in juvenile session or has a juvenile or family branch has exclusive jurisdiction over determination of paternity (except that in some States a justice of the peace or other court of summary jurisdiction holds preliminary hearings).⁴⁵ Its jurisdiction is concurrent in part of 1 of these 8 States (New York) also in 1 State (Oklahoma) and parts of 3 States (Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Tennessee). In 1 State (New Mexico) the court having dependency jurisdiction hears cases to establish paternity. In 1 State (Wisconsin) and in parts of another State (Georgia) the court having jurisdiction over cases to establish paternity may be designated the juvenile court.

In 1 of the 2 States that have no juvenile-court system (Maine) jurisdiction over cases to establish paternity is vested in a court that may deal with children's cases under criminal procedure, and in the other (Wyoming) such jurisdiction is vested in the courts that deal with delinquent children.

Proceedings to establish paternity are brought before one or more courts without juvenile jurisdiction in 14 States and parts of 11 others.⁴⁶ In parts of 1 of these States, however (Delaware), the court hearing these cases deals with juvenile delinquents under criminal procedure. Another of these States (Oregon) has an additional provision to the effect that a defendant may be discharged by a justice of the peace before trial if he pays or agrees to pay a sum agreed to by the plaintiff and approved by the judge of the

³⁹ Connecticut (but see footnote 36), Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Wisconsin; parts of Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee (unless defendant pleads guilty; see footnote 40).

⁴⁰ Exclusive jurisdiction in parts of New York, North Carolina, and Ohio; concurrent jurisdiction in Illinois, New Jersey, and parts of Ohio and Tennessee. Variance between figures in this section and those given in *The Child, the Family, and the Court*, pt. 1, p. 29, is due to inclusion in the present report of certain legislation of 1929 and to different interpretations occasioned by the receipt of new information in the months intervening between the issuance of the two publications.

⁴¹ Arizona, California, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Washington; parts of Indiana, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, West Virginia.

⁴² Alabama, Arkansas (same judge presides over juvenile court), Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Iowa (but same judges may preside over juvenile court), Kansas, Michigan, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont; parts of Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia.

³⁹ Louisiana and Virginia; parts of Alabama, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, West Virginia.

⁴⁰ Arkansas, California, New Jersey, Ohio, Utah; parts of Colorado, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee (if defendant pleads guilty), West Virginia.

⁴¹ Arizona, Idaho, Mississippi, Nebraska (juvenile-court judge presiding), North Dakota, Rhode Island; parts of Alabama, Minnesota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington.

⁴² Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont; parts of Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Washington.

juvenile court. In a few States the courts that sit in juvenile session or have juvenile or family branches have preliminary jurisdiction over cases to establish paternity but have no trial jurisdiction.

In addition to the usual proceedings, paternity may be established in 6 States and also in certain parts of another State^{46a} through voluntary legal action by the father, who may legitimate by filing a petition or acknowledgment. The courts authorized to accept such petitions in 1 of the States (Mississippi) and parts of 4 others (Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee) are juvenile courts (South Carolina) or courts having juvenile jurisdiction; in the sixth (Georgia), such courts may be designated as juvenile courts.

The three States that have made no provision for court action to establish the paternity of children born out of wedlock are Louisiana, Texas, and Virginia. In Texas and Virginia legitimation results from subsequent marriage and acknowledgment by the father, and in Louisiana under certain circumstances legitimation may result from subsequent marriage or either parent may legitimate the child by notarial act. Legitimation may be effected in a similar manner in many States that also provide for court action to establish paternity.

ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, AND SEPARATE MAINTENANCE

Cases of annulment of marriage, divorce, and separate maintenance are heard by the juvenile court or the court that sits in juvenile session or has a juvenile or family branch in 11 States and parts of 10 others.⁴⁷ Some of the courts that hear annulment cases do not have divorce jurisdiction, and some that hear cases of absolute divorce or limited divorce do not have jurisdiction over both these types of cases.

In 6 States and parts of 2 others annulment of marriage is not authorized by statute, but divorce is granted for causes that in other States are grounds for annulment.⁴⁸ One State (Florida) prohibits limited divorce, and 9 others have no statutory provision concerning it.⁴⁹ Four States have no statutory provision for separate maintenance;⁵⁰ one of these (South Carolina) prohibits divorce. Seven States provide for neither limited divorce nor separate maintenance.⁵¹

In parts of 2 States juvenile courts or family courts with juvenile jurisdiction have exclusive jurisdiction over divorce, also over annulment of marriage and separate maintenance if these are provided for in the statutes.⁵² These courts have concurrent jurisdiction over divorce and separate maintenance in 1 State (Nebraska) and over annulment, divorce, and separate maintenance in part of another State (West Virginia). In Nebraska the court having a juvenile division deals with annulment. In part of another State (Tennessee) the family court has exclusive jurisdiction if the custody of children is involved, concurrent jurisdiction otherwise. In part of still another State (Oregon), the family court has exclusive jurisdiction

in divorce cases that are uncontested or that involve children under 18 years of age.

Cases of divorce, also of annulment and separate maintenance where provided for, are heard exclusively by courts that sit in juvenile session or have a juvenile or family branch in 8 States and parts of 8 others,⁵³ concurrently by these courts and other courts in parts of 4 States (Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio). In 1 State (New Mexico) the court that hears dependency cases deals with divorce and annulment.

One or more courts without juvenile jurisdiction hear cases of divorce or annulment or both—and separate maintenance when provided for—in the District of Columbia, 22 States, and parts of 10 others.⁵⁴ In part of 1 State that provides for divorce only (Ohio) and in 1 State that provides for annulment, divorce, and separate maintenance (Wisconsin), also in parts of a State that provides for absolute and limited divorce and separate maintenance but not for annulment (Georgia) the court that hears these cases may be designated as the juvenile court.

In 1 of the 2 States that have no juvenile-court system (Maine) the court having jurisdiction over divorce and annulment of marriage deals with juvenile cases under regular procedure, and in the other (Wyoming) the courts dealing with divorce, annulment, and separate maintenance hear delinquency cases. The Maine court that deals with separate maintenance, however, does not deal with juvenile delinquents.

ADOPTION AND GUARDIANSHIP

Adoption.

Only 1 State and parts of 2 others among the 46 States in which court action is required to make adoption effective have vested exclusive jurisdiction over adoption cases in the juvenile or family court, and in only 1 State and parts of 4 others has this court concurrent jurisdiction over adoption.⁵⁵ (See Column XII of the tabular summary, p. 11.)

In those States in which the juvenile or family court is a session or branch of a court that has adoption jurisdiction, it is comparatively easy for the organization and procedure developed in this session or branch to be utilized for investigation and supervision during a trial period in the adoptive home. This situation exists in 8 States and parts of 8 others in which such courts have exclusive jurisdiction over adoption,⁵⁶ also in 1 State (Washington) and parts of 1 other (Indiana) in which the jurisdiction is exclusive except for certain types of persons as noted in a following paragraph. It also exists in 2 States and parts of 5 others in which the adoption jurisdiction is concurrent with that of other courts.⁵⁷ In 1 State (Wisconsin) and parts of 2 others (Georgia and Ohio) the court with adoption jurisdiction may be designated as the juvenile court. In 1 State (New Mexico) the court that hears dependency cases has adoption jurisdiction.

In 1 of the 2 States that have no juvenile-court system (Maine) the court that hears adoption petitions is among those which may deal with certain juvenile

^{46a} Alabama, Georgia, Maine, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee; parts of South Carolina.

⁴⁷ Arizona, California, Illinois, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Texas, Washington; parts of Colorado, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, West Virginia. In Oklahoma the law authorized family courts in certain counties to hear such cases, but no such courts had been established in 1929. (See footnote 5, p. 2.) Variance between figures in this section and those given in *The Child, the Family, and the Court*, pt. 1, p. 29, is due to inclusion in the present report of certain legislation of 1929 and to different interpretations occasioned by the receipt of new information in the months intervening between the issuance of the two publications.

⁴⁸ Colorado (except Denver under certain circumstances), Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Mississippi, Missouri (except St. Louis), Ohio, Rhode Island.

⁴⁹ Colorado, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming.

⁵⁰ Arkansas, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia.

⁵¹ Idaho, Iowa, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Washington.

⁵² St. Louis, Mo.; Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Mahoning, Montgomery and Stark Counties, Ohio.

⁵³ Arizona, California, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Texas, Washington; parts of Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Oregon, West Virginia.

⁵⁴ Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina (annulment only; divorce prohibited), South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia; parts of Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, West Virginia.

⁵⁵ Jurisdiction is exclusive in Missouri and parts of Colorado and Oregon, concurrent in Iowa and parts of New York, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia.

⁵⁶ Arizona, California, Idaho, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, South Dakota; parts of Alabama, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oregon, West Virginia.

⁵⁷ North Dakota, Oklahoma; parts of Colorado, Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee.

cases under regular procedure, and in the other (Wyoming) the court that hears adoption petitions deals with delinquency cases.

Adoption jurisdiction is vested in a court not connected with the juvenile or family court in the District of Columbia, 13 States, and parts of 13 others, including 1 (Indiana) mentioned in the following paragraph.⁵⁸ However, in a county in 1 of these States (North Carolina) the domestic-relations court (which has juvenile jurisdiction) is authorized to conduct the preliminary examinations and investigations in adoption cases and to make recommendations to the court granting the decree.

In addition to their regular adoption laws, 3 States have special provisions giving concurrent jurisdiction over the adoption of certain classes of children to specified courts in part or all of the State: In Indiana the court that sits in juvenile session has such jurisdiction over the adoption of dependent and neglected children except in 1 county and over the adoption of inmates of a house of refuge or reformatory for females except in this county and 1 other; in New York City the children's court has such jurisdiction over the adoption of delinquent, defective, or neglected children and those who are held as material witnesses; in the State of Washington the juvenile court has such jurisdiction over the adoption of delinquent or dependent children.

No court action for adoption is required in Louisiana, where a person under 21 may be adopted by an act executed before a notary or parish recorder, nor in Texas, where any person may be adopted by a statement of adoption recorded like a deed.

Guardianship.⁵⁹

Juvenile courts do not have exclusive and unlimited authority to appoint guardians in any State. In 4 States and parts of 2 others they have concurrent jurisdiction over guardianship cases subject to limitations as follows: In Utah their jurisdiction includes guardianship of the person only (not of the estate); in the counties of New York in which children's courts have been established their jurisdiction (although concurrent) is not limited to certain types of children, but in New York City it includes only children who are delinquent, neglected, defective, or held as material witnesses; the juvenile courts in Georgia may appoint guardians for delinquent, dependent, and neglected children and those whose custody is in question; only delinquent and dependent children are under the guardianship jurisdiction of this court in Illinois; in North Carolina the guardianship jurisdiction of the juvenile court includes delinquent, dependent, and neglected children; and in parts of South Carolina it includes delinquent, wayward, dependent, neglected, and defective children, also those whose paternity or custody is in question.

The court that sits in juvenile session or has a juvenile or family branch has exclusive jurisdiction over guardianship in 12 States and parts of 12 others,⁶⁰ concurrent

jurisdiction in parts of 3 (Indiana, New York, and Tennessee). In 1 State (Wisconsin) and parts of 2 other States (Georgia and Ohio) a court that may be designated as the juvenile court has guardianship jurisdiction, and in another State (New Mexico) the court that deals with dependents has concurrent jurisdiction over guardianship cases.

Courts without juvenile jurisdiction are authorized to appoint guardians in the District of Columbia, 15 States, and parts of 16 others.⁶¹

In 1 of the 2 States that have no juvenile-court system (Maine) the court that hears guardianship cases is among those which may deal with certain juvenile cases under regular procedure, and in the other (Wyoming) the court that hears guardianship cases deals with delinquency cases.

COMMITMENT OF MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN

Jurisdiction over commitment of mentally defective children is not always vested in a court. In 2 States (Utah and West Virginia) no provision has been made for court commitment.⁶² In 31 States, although a court has power of commitment, State or local welfare organizations also may commit mentally defective children, or the superintendent of the institution may receive such children on application of parent or guardian or other specified person.⁶³ In 7 of these 31 States the requirements as to commitment of epileptics differ from those regarding the commitment of the feeble-minded: Colorado, Indiana, and North Carolina require commitment for epileptics but not for the feeble-minded in all cases. In Alabama and Illinois it is not required for epileptics but is required for the feeble-minded. In Iowa and Minnesota court commitment is not required in all cases of the feeble-minded and is not provided for in cases of epileptics.

Epileptics, so far as they are provided for in the statutes, are included with the mentally defective in the following paragraphs unless jurisdiction to commit is vested in different courts.

Only 2 States and parts of 4 others have given exclusive jurisdiction over mentally defective children to juvenile and family courts.⁶⁴ In parts of 2 of these (Alabama and Colorado) the juvenile or family court has no jurisdiction over epileptics. Authority to commit mentally defective children is vested in the juvenile court and in other courts in 6 States and parts of 2 others.⁶⁵ In 2 of these States (California and Connecticut) and in parts of another (Maryland) the juvenile court has no jurisdiction over epileptics. In 1 of the 6 States (New York) it would seem that the children's courts throughout the State have jurisdiction (under a law of 1927 that grants jurisdiction to all courts of record), but a later law giving the children's court in 1 county the power to commit mentally defective children within its jurisdiction may limit this court's jurisdiction to mentally defective children who are delinquent or neglected or whose custody is in ques-

⁵⁸ Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, Virginia; parts of Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia.

⁵⁹ Guardianship of mentally defective and insane persons is not included in this analysis, nor the guardianship exercised by agencies authorized to receive children committed by courts having juvenile jurisdiction, such as State or local boards or departments of public welfare or child welfare, public and private institutions for children, and private child-placing agencies.

⁶⁰ Arizona, California, Idaho, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Washington; parts of Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Carolina, South Carolina.

⁶¹ Arkansas, Delaware, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia; parts of Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee.

⁶² This analysis (like Column XIII of the tabular summary, p. 11) contains information relating only to mentally handicapped children, exclusive of insane children. No attempt has been made to include the type of commitment represented by the transfer of mental defectives from one local or State public institution to another.

⁶³ Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington.

⁶⁴ Arizona and Washington; parts of Alabama, Colorado, Oregon, South Carolina.

⁶⁵ California, Connecticut, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Virginia; parts of Maryland and Pennsylvania.

tion. (See Chautauqua County, Column XIII of the tabular summary, p. 23.) In some States in which the juvenile-court laws do not specifically include mental defectives the juvenile or family courts may acquire jurisdiction under their general authority over delinquent, dependent, or neglected children.

The court that sits in juvenile session or has a juvenile or family division has exclusive jurisdiction over the commitment of mentally defective children in 8 States and parts of 11 others.⁶⁶ In parts of 1 of the 11 (Oregon) this court has no jurisdiction over epileptics, and there is no provision for court commitment of epileptics in parts of another of this group (Minnesota). In 1 State (Idaho) and in parts of 2 other States (Illinois, Tennessee), moreover, the jurisdiction of this court is concurrent. One State (New Mexico) has vested jurisdiction to commit mentally defective children in the court that in regular session deals with dependent and neglected children. Mentally defective children are committed in 1 State (Wisconsin) and parts of 2 others (Georgia and Ohio) by a court that may be designated as the juvenile court.

Courts without juvenile jurisdiction have power to commit mental defectives in the District of Columbia, 10 States (except epileptics in parts of Massachusetts), and parts of 10 others.⁶⁷ The court committing mental defectives in 1 of these States (Delaware) tries juvenile delinquents under criminal procedure in certain counties. Five of these 20 States have provi-

sions authorizing the juvenile or family court to commit mentally defective children under certain conditions: In Delaware the juvenile court may commit if the child is arrested; in Missouri, if the child is delinquent or neglected; in North Carolina, if the child is delinquent, dependent, or neglected; in Ohio, if the child is dependent or neglected; and in Tennessee, if the child is charged with delinquency.

In 1 of the 2 States that have no juvenile-court system (Maine) the court that may commit mentally defective children (court commitment not being required for all cases) is among those which may deal with certain juvenile cases under regular criminal procedure, and in the other (Wyoming) the court that deals with delinquency cases commits mentally defective children.

In the 2 States and parts of 5 others in which epileptic children are dealt with by courts other than those committing feeble-minded children the epileptics are committed as follows: In California epileptic children are committed by the court that has juvenile jurisdiction, and in Connecticut they are committed by a court that has juvenile jurisdiction in parts of the State only. In Massachusetts (except the central court district of Boston) the court having juvenile sessions may commit epileptics. In Maryland and parts of Alabama, Colorado, and Oregon epileptics are committed by courts without juvenile jurisdiction.

For details as to nature of jurisdiction see Column XIII of the tabular summary, page 11.

SUMMARY

From the foregoing analysis it can be seen that the laws of a number of States vest jurisdiction over some of the types of cases included in the study in the juvenile or family court or in the larger court of which the juvenile or family court is a branch or special session. It is evident, however, that the jurisdiction of these courts, except over delinquent and dependent minors under specified ages, is not exclusive to any great extent, that low age limits and exceptions or modifications in the laws result in the exclusion of many children from the benefits of juvenile-court procedure, and that a large amount of overlapping of jurisdiction exists, resulting in a condition that in many States is little short of chaotic.

The problem of simplifying the judicial organization for dealing with problems of child and family welfare, and of bringing to these problems adequate facilities for social and psychiatric as well as legal treatment, involves both legislative and administrative changes. In the conclusions given in part 1 of the report of the family-court study made by the Children's Bureau⁶⁸ it was pointed out that great need exists for extending social treatment (of the kind developed in juvenile courts) as rapidly as possible to matters bearing upon family relations, especially nonsupport and desertion, the support of children born out of wedlock, and certain offenses against children. It was recommended that some of the new methods, especially investigation, be extended to cases of adoption, guardianship of the person of children, and commitment of mentally defective children. The possibility of vesting in the

juvenile or family court jurisdiction as to divorce cases involving children, or as to custody of children and alimony for the support of children, was suggested as meriting careful study and experimentation.

In the many States in which some of the types of cases included in this report are within the jurisdiction of a court of which the juvenile or family court is a branch or special session, it would be comparatively easy, without special legislation, to assign by agreement or rule of court jurisdiction over all juvenile and family cases within the court's jurisdiction to the same judge or branch. Such a plan has been developed in some communities.⁶⁹ Possibilities exist for obtaining local agreements on the part of judges of several courts having jurisdiction over the same type of cases to center treatment of such cases in one court. Provision for an adequate staff of social workers and for the services of physicians, psychologists, and psychiatrists is essential if the centralization of jurisdiction is to accomplish the results desired. Legislative changes are also necessary in many States if adequate treatment of juvenile and family cases is to be assured. Perhaps the most urgent needs revealed by study of the statutes are raising the age limits in juvenile cases in the States in which the age limit is lower than 18 years, and eliminating exceptions to juvenile-court jurisdiction or modifications of it in cases of serious offenses. In many States the nonsupport and desertion laws need revision to bring them in line with the age provisions of juvenile-court laws and to reduce the amount of overlapping jurisdiction which now exists. Legislative changes both in substantive law and in jurisdictional provisions are needed also in the other types of cases discussed.

⁶⁶ Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas; parts of Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina.

⁶⁷ Arkansas, Delaware, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Vermont; parts of Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee.

⁶⁸ *The Child, the Family, and the Court*, pt. 1, pp. 62-64.

⁶⁹ As in Springfield, Mass., and Douglas County, Nebr.

TABULAR SUMMARY OF STATE LAWS RELATING TO ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

COURT SYSTEMS ²		JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JURISDICTION IN CASES OF DELINQUENCY, DEPENDENCY, AND NEGLECT ²			COURTS HAVING JURISDICTION	
STATE AND COURTS IN STATE	JUVENILE OR FAMILY COURT SYSTEM	AGE LIMIT	NATURE OF JURISDICTION	EXCEPTIONS OR MODIFICATIONS, PROVISIONS FOR JURY TRIAL	OFFENSES OF MINORS OVER DELINQUENCY AGE	CONTRIBUTING TO DELINQUENCY OR DEPENDENCY ³
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
ALABAMA: Supreme court. Court of appeals. Circuit courts. Probate courts. County courts. Juvenile courts. Juvenile and domestic-relations courts. Inferior court (Tuscaloosa County). Court of misdemeanors (Jefferson County). Justices of the peace. Recorders.	Independent juvenile court in counties 95,000-175,000 (1927, No. 571). Independent juvenile and domestic-relations court in counties 75,000-95,000 (1927, No. 201), and counties 200,000 or more (1927, No. 225). Inferior court in Tuscaloosa County (1927 (local acts), No. 228). Probate court elsewhere (Code 1923, sec. 3529).	Under 16 (also girls under 18 in counties 75,000-95,000 and 200,000 or more) (1927, Nos. 201, 636).	Exclusive original.	Juvenile court may transfer delinquent over 14 to court having jurisdiction of offense; juvenile and domestic-relations court may so transfer any delinquent (Code 1923, sec. 3540; 1927, Nos. 201, 228 (local acts), 571, 636).	Children between 16 and 18 brought before any court of criminal jurisdiction may be transferred to juvenile court for delinquency proceedings in Tuscaloosa County, counties 95,000-175,000, and where probate court is juvenile court (Code 1923, sec. 3539; 1927 (local acts), No. 228). Boys between 16 and 18 brought before any other court charged with crime may be transferred to the juvenile and domestic-relations court for delinquency proceedings in counties 200,000 or more (1927, No. 636).	Juvenile court or juvenile and domestic-relations court where established (1927, Nos. 201, 225, 636, 571), inferior court in Tuscaloosa County (1927 (local acts), No. 228), probate court in juvenile session elsewhere (Code 1923, sec. 3542).
ARIZONA: Supreme court. Superior courts. Justices of the peace. Police courts.	Superior court (Rev. Stat. 1913, sec. 3562).	Under 18.	Exclusive original.	Court may permit criminal prosecution after examination in chambers.		Superior court (Penal Code 1913, sec. 257).
ARKANSAS: Supreme court. Circuit courts. Chancery courts. Probate courts. County courts. Courts of common pleas. Juvenile courts. Justices of the peace. Corporation (municipal) courts. Police courts.	Independent juvenile court (county judge presiding) (Digest of Stat., Crawford and Moses, 1921, sec. 5752).	Under 21 (1921, No. 404).	Exclusive original if arrested without warrant. Concurrent if arrested upon warrant (Digest of Stat. 1921, sec. 5770).	Court issuing warrant may try case or may transfer child to juvenile court.		Misdemeanor (Digest of Stat. 1921, sec. 5784). See Col. VIII.
CALIFORNIA: Supreme court. District courts of appeal. Superior courts. Municipal courts. Justice's, recorder's, and police courts.	Superior court (Deering's Gen. Laws 1923, No. 3966, sec. 16, amended by 1927, ch. 654, sec. 6).	Under 21. See Col. IV.	Exclusive original over children under 18; concurrent original over children 18-21 (Gen. Laws 1923, No. 3966, sec. 6).	No jurisdiction over persons over 18, under 21, if capital offense has been committed or attempted. Juvenile court may order criminal prosecution of delinquent violating any State law or ordinance defining crime (Gen. Laws 1923, No. 3966, secs. 4-c, 6, 7).		Juvenile court (Gen. Laws 1923, No. 3966, sec. 21).
COLORADO: Supreme court. District courts. County courts. Justices of the peace and police magistrate's courts. Juvenile court (Denver).	Independent juvenile court in Denver (may be termed "family court") (Comp. Laws 1921, sec. 5810; 1923, ch. 78). County court elsewhere (Comp. Laws 1921, secs. 603, 655).	Under 18 (1923, chs. 75, 77, 78).	Exclusive original (Comp. Laws 1921, secs. 603, 660), but see Col. V.	Criminal charges may be had against minor over 10, under 21: District court, county court; also juvenile court in Denver (1923, ch. 78; People ex rel. Cruz. v. Morley, 77 Colo. 25). Misdemeanor charges against minors 17 or over may be heard by justice of the peace or police magistrate (Comp. Laws 1921, sec. 660). Jury trial may be had on demand (Comp. Laws 1921, secs. 603, 655, 656).	In Denver the juvenile court has concurrent criminal jurisdiction over minors 10-21. See Col. V.	Civil proceedings: Juvenile court in Denver, county court elsewhere (Comp. Laws 1921, sec. 651; 1923, ch. 78). Misdemeanor (Comp. Laws 1921, sec. 615; 1923, ch. 76). See Col. VIII.

¹ As of Jan. 1, 1929, except that family-court laws of 1929 in New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, and Tennessee have been included. Some courts created by special or private acts may have been omitted.

² Legal references for Columns I and VIII are omitted. References ascertainable from preceding columns are not repeated. Unless otherwise indicated, the term "juvenile court" in Columns III-XIII means not only independent juvenile courts but also all courts sitting in juvenile session.

³ Age of children to whom law applies, if not specified, is as shown in Column III. "Misdemeanor" or "felony" indicates that the statutes do not specifically designate the courts having jurisdiction and that jurisdiction is as shown in Column VIII, with such exceptions as may be specified in Columns VII and IX.

⁴ Not all the courts listed have jurisdiction in all cases, as the jurisdiction may be limited according to the penalty for the offense.

IN CHILDREN'S CASES AND CASES OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS¹IN OTHER JUVENILE AND FAMILY CASES²

OFFENSES AGAINST CHILDREN ³	DESERTION AND NONSUPPORT ⁴	ESTABLISHMENT OF PATERNITY AND SUPPORT OF CHILDREN BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK ⁵	ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, SEPARATE MAINTENANCE	ADOPTION, GUARDIANSHIP ⁶	COMMITMENT OF MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN ⁷
VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	XIII
Misdemeanors: Circuit court. Probate court. County court. Justice of the peace. Recorder. Juvenile and domestic-relations court (counties of 200,000 or more). Inferior court (Tuscaloosa County). Court of misdemeanors (Jefferson County). Felonies: Circuit court.	Desertion or nonsupport of wife or child under 18 (Code 1923, sec. 4480): Juvenile court or juvenile and domestic-relations court where established, inferior court in Tuscaloosa County, probate court elsewhere (Code 1923, sec. 4484; 1927 (local acts), 228).	Preliminaries: Justice of the peace (Code 1923, sec. 3416). Trial: Circuit court (Code 1923, sec. 3418). Voluntary acknowledgment by father: Probate court (Code 1923, sec. 9300).	Circuit court (Code 1923, secs. 6676, 7407, 7423; Johnson v. Johnson, 190 Ala. 527).	Inferior court in Tuscaloosa County (1927 (local acts), No. 228), probate court elsewhere (Code 1923, secs. 8094, 9302).	Feeble-minded (and feeble-minded epileptic) 5-21: Juvenile court or juvenile and domestic-relations court where established, probate court elsewhere (Code 1923, secs. 1452, 1479). Epileptic: Probate court; court commitment not required in all cases (Code 1923, secs. 712, 714).
Misdemeanors: Superior court. Justice of the peace. Police court. Felonies: Superior court.	Superior court (Penal Code 1913, secs. 249, 250).	Preliminaries: Justice of the peace (1923, ch. 72). Trial: Superior court (1923, ch. 72).	Superior court (Const., art. 6, sec. 6; Rev. Stat. 1913, sec. 3858).	Superior court (Rev. Stat. 1913, secs. 1106, 1188).	Superior court in juvenile session (1927, ch. 96).
Misdemeanors: Circuit court. Justice of the peace. Municipal court. Felonies: Circuit court.	Desertion or nonsupport of wife or child under 21: Juvenile court (1921, No. 404). Desertion or nonsupport of wife or child under 14: Misdemeanor; felony if man leaves State (1923, No. 331). See Col. VIII.	County court (Const., art. 7, sec. 28).	Annulment, divorce, limited divorce: Chancery court (Digest of Stat. 1921, secs. 2188, 3499, 3500). Separate maintenance: No statutory provision.	Probate court (Const., art. 7, sec. 34; Digest of Stat. 1921, sec. 252).	Probate court (Const., art. 7, sec. 34). Court commitment not required in all cases (Digest of Stat. 1921, sec. 9448).
Misdemeanors: Superior court. Municipal court. Justice's, recorder's, or police court. Felonies: Superior court.	Nonsupport of child: Juvenile court (Gen. Laws 1923, No. 3966, sec. 21), superior court (1927, ch. 249). Nonsupport of minor child: Misdemeanor (Deering's Penal Code 1923, sec. 270). See Col. VIII. Nonsupport of wife, desertion or nonsupport of child under 14: Felony (Penal Code 1923, secs. 270a, 271, 271a). See Col. VIII.	Superior court (Deering's Civil Code 1923, secs. 196a, 231; Penal Code 1923, sec. 270; Myers v. Harrington, 70 Calif. App. 680, 684).	Superior court (Const., art. 6, sec. 5).	Superior court (Civil Code 1923, sec. 226; Deering's Code of Civil Procedure 1923, sec. 1747).	Feeble-minded: Juvenile court (Gen. Laws 1923, No. 3966, sec. 1), superior court; court commitment not required in all cases (Deering's Political Code 1923, secs. 2192, 2194). Epileptic: Superior court; court commitment not required in all cases (Political Code 1923, secs. 2192, 2194).
Misdemeanors: District court. County court. Justice of the peace (except Denver). Juvenile court (Denver). Felonies: District court, county court, and juvenile court in Denver; district court elsewhere.	Desertion or nonsupport of wife or child under 16: Juvenile court (Denver), district court, county court (Comp. Laws 1921, secs. 5566, 5569).	Preliminaries: Justice of the peace (Comp. Laws 1921, sec. 6296). Trial: District court (Comp. Laws 1921, sec. 6297).	Annulment: Juvenile court if either party is under 21 when case is filed, district court, county court (1923, ch. 78). This applies to Denver only. No statutory provision for remainder of State. Divorce is granted for causes that in other States are grounds for annulment. Divorce, separate maintenance: County court (jurisdiction limited by amount of alimony asked), district court (Comp. Laws 1921, sec. 5594, amended by 1927, ch. 93). Limited divorce: No statutory provision.	Adoption: Juvenile court in Denver, district court, county court elsewhere (Comp. Laws 1921, sec. 5512; 1923, ch. 78). Guardianship: County court (const., art. 6, sec. 23).	Feeble-minded: Juvenile court in Denver (1923, ch. 78), county court elsewhere; court commitment not required in all cases (Comp. Laws 1921, secs. 551, 555, 582). Epileptic: County court (Comp. Laws 1921, sec. 587).

¹ Only special legislation is included in Column X. Nonsupport of a child born out of wedlock is covered by the general laws on desertion and nonsupport in 19 States, as follows: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin.

² Does not include guardianship of mentally defective or insane persons nor the guardianship exercised by agencies authorized to receive children committed by courts having juvenile jurisdiction, such as State or local boards or departments of public welfare or child welfare, public and private institutions for children, and private child-placing agencies.

³ Does not include insane; includes epileptics if the law makes specific provisions in regard to their commitment. Provisions for epileptics different from those for feeble-minded are indicated.

TABULAR SUMMARY OF STATE LAWS RELATING TO ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

COURT SYSTEMS		JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JURISDICTION IN CASES OF DELINQUENCY, DEPENDENCY, AND NEGLECT			COURTS HAVING JURISDICTION	
STATE AND COURTS IN STATE	JUVENILE OR FAMILY COURT SYSTEM	AGE LIMIT	NATURE OF JURISDICTION	EXCEPTIONS OR MODIFICATIONS, PROVISIONS FOR JURY TRIAL	OFFENSES OF MINORS OVER DELINQUENCY AGE	CONTRIBUTING TO DELINQUENCY OR DEPENDENCY
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
CONNECTICUT: Supreme court of errors. Superior court. Courts of common pleas. Criminal courts of common pleas. Probate courts. Town, city, borough, and police courts. Juvenile courts. Justices of the peace.	Independent juvenile court where town, city, borough, or police court has been established (town, city, borough or police court judge presiding) (1921, ch. 336, amended by 1927, ch. 195). Probate court or justice of the peace elsewhere (Gen. Stat. 1918, sec. 1782; 1927, ch. 260).	Under 16.	Exclusive original (but justice of the peace has no jurisdiction over dependent children).			Misdemeanor (1925, ch. 66). See Col. VIII.
DELAWARE: Supreme court. Superior court. Court of common pleas (New Castle County). Courts of oyer and terminer. Courts of general sessions. Court of chancery. Orphans' courts. Municipal court (Wilmington). Juvenile court (Wilmington and New Castle County). Justices of the peace.	Independent juvenile court in Wilmington and New Castle County (1923, ch. 227). No juvenile-court organization elsewhere, but court of general sessions and justices of the peace in Kent and Sussex Counties may remand to Wilmington juvenile court (1923, ch. 227).	Under 17 (boys), under 18 (girls).	Exclusive original.	No jurisdiction of capital offenses (Rev. Code 1915, sec. 3835).		
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Court of appeals. Supreme court. Municipal court. Juvenile court. Police court.	Independent juvenile court (Code 1924, Appendix, p. 510).	Under 17 (dependent or delinquent); under 16 (vicious or incorrigible) (27 Stat. 268; Code 1924, Appendix, p. 511).	Exclusive original.	No jurisdiction of capital and other infamous offenses and those punishable by imprisonment in penitentiary, nor of libel, conspiracy, or violations of United States post office and pension laws, nor of riot, general disorder, and the like involving several offenders, some under 17 (Code 1924, Appendix, pp. 510, 512). Jury trial may be had on demand in certain cases (Code 1924, Appendix, p. 512).		Juvenile court (Code 1924, p. 515, sec. 24; 34 Stat., pt. 1, p. 73).
FLORIDA: Supreme court. Circuit courts. Criminal courts of record. Civil courts of record. County courts. County judge's courts (where no county court has been established). Juvenile courts. Municipal or recorder's courts. Justices of the peace.	Independent juvenile court: Dade County (Special Acts of 1921, ch. 8663, amended by Special Acts of 1923, ch. 9416; Acts of 1925, extraordinary session, ch. 11359; Gen. Acts of 1927, ch. 11974), Duval County (Special Acts of 1915, ch. 7005, amended by Special Acts of 1925, ch. 10493; Gen. Acts of 1927, ch. 11973), Hillsborough County (Special Acts of 1919, ch. 8061), Monroe County (Special Acts of 1925, ch. 10859), Orange County (Gen. Acts of 1921, ch. 8488), Pinellas County (Gen. Acts of 1927, ch. 11972). County judge elsewhere (Comp. Gen. Laws 1927, sec. 3685).	Under 17 (Comp. Gen. Laws 1927, sec. 3684).	Exclusive original except over children charged with crime (Comp. Gen. Laws 1927, secs. 3686, 3705).	No jurisdiction if offense is rape, murder, manslaughter, robbery, arson, burglary, or attempt to commit one of these (Comp. Gen. Laws 1927, sec. 3706).		Misdemeanor (Comp. Gen. Laws 1927, sec. 7981). See Col. VIII.

IN CHILDREN'S CASES AND CASES OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS—Continued

IN OTHER JUVENILE AND FAMILY CASES

OFFENSES AGAINST CHILDREN VIII	DESERTION AND NONSUPPORT IX	ESTABLISHMENT OF PATERNITY AND SUPPORT OF CHILDREN BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK X	ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, SEPARATE MAINTENANCE XI	ADOPTION, GUARDIANSHIP XII	COMMITMENT OF MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN XIII
Misdemeanors: Town, city, borough, or police court. Justice of the peace. Felonies: Superior court. Criminal court of common pleas. Town, city, borough, or police court.	Superior court; town, city, or borough court; justice of the peace (Gen. Stat. 1918, sec. 6416, amended by 1919, ch. 213).	Preliminaries: Town, city, borough, or police court; justice of the peace (1927, ch. 244). Trial: Court of common pleas where established, superior court elsewhere (1927, ch. 244).	Superior court (Gen. Stat. 1918, secs. 5280, 5293).	Probate court (Gen. Stat. 1918, secs. 4861, 4878).	Feeble-minded: Juvenile court (1921, ch. 336, sec. 12), probate court (Gen. Stat. 1918, sec. 1762). Epileptic: Probate court (Gen. Stat. 1918, sec. 1762).
Misdemeanors: Court of general sessions. Municipal court (Wilmington). Court of common pleas (New Castle County). Justice of the peace. Felonies: Superior court. Court of oyer and terminer (capital offenses and manslaughter). Court of general sessions (all crimes except capital offenses and manslaughter). Court of common pleas (New Castle County, under certain conditions).	Court of common pleas in New Castle County (1917, ch. 250, amended by 1919, ch. 219), municipal court in Wilmington, court of general sessions (Rev. Code 1915, sec. 3035).	Justice of the peace (1921, ch. 184).	Superior court (Rev. Code 1915, sec. 3009).	Orphans' court (Rev. Code 1915, secs. 3063, 3089).	Court of general sessions or juvenile court (if child has been arrested) or resident judge of county may commit to State commission for the feeble-minded; court commitment not required in all cases (Rev. Code 1915, sec. 2608; 1917, ch. 172, secs. 8, 9, 10).
Misdemeanors: Juvenile court (certain offenses). Police court. Felonies: Supreme court.	Desertion or nonsupport of wife or child under 16: Misdemeanor: Juvenile court, police court (44 Stat., pt. 2, p. 716; Code 1924, Appendix, p. 511).	Juvenile court (Code 1924, Appendix, p. 517; 37 Stat., pt. 1, p. 134).	Supreme court (Code 1924, secs. 963, 980).	Supreme court (Code 1924, secs. 395, 1125).	Supreme court (43 Stat., pt. 1, p. 1135).
Misdemeanors: Criminal court of record where established. County court where established if no criminal court of record has been established. Circuit court elsewhere. County judge. Justice of the peace. Felonies: Criminal court of record where established (except capital offenses). Circuit court elsewhere (and capital offenses throughout State).	Felony (Comp. Gen. Laws 1927, sec. 7654). See Col. VIII.	Preliminaries: County court where established, county judge's court elsewhere, justice of the peace (Comp. Gen. Laws 1927, sec. 5876). Trial: Circuit court (Comp. Gen. Laws 1927, sec. 5876).	Annulment: No statutory provision. Divorce is granted for causes that in other States are grounds for annulment. Divorce, separate maintenance: Circuit court (Const., art. 5, sec. 11; Comp. Gen. Laws 1927, secs. 4980, 4988, 4989). Limited divorce: Not granted (Comp. Gen. Laws 1927, sec. 4982).	Adoption: Circuit court (Comp. Gen. Laws 1927, sec. 5076). Guardianship: County court where established, county judge's court elsewhere (Comp. Gen. Laws 1927, sec. 5885).	County judge (Comp. Gen. Laws 1927, sec. 3677).

TABULAR SUMMARY OF STATE LAWS RELATING TO ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

COURT SYSTEMS		JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JURISDICTION IN CASES OF DELINQUENCY, DEPENDENCY, AND NEGLECT			COURTS HAVING JURISDICTION	
STATE AND COURTS IN STATE	JUVENILE OR FAMILY COURT SYSTEM	AGE LIMIT	NATURE OF JURISDICTION	EXCEPTIONS OR MODIFICATIONS, PROVISIONS FOR JURY TRIAL	OFFENSES OF MINORS OVER DELINQUENCY AGE	CONTRIBUTING TO DELINQUENCY OR DEPENDENCY
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
GEORGIA: Supreme court. Court of appeals. Superior courts. Courts of ordinary. County courts. City courts (criminal court of Atlanta). Juvenile courts. Mayor's or recorder's courts. Municipal courts or justices of the peace.	Independent juvenile court in counties 60,000 or more, permissive in counties 35,000-60,000 (Michie's Penal Code 1926, secs. 900(1), 900(41a)). Court of record designated by superior court elsewhere (Penal Code 1926, sec. 900(41)). [All courts except recorder's and mayor's courts and justices of the peace are courts of record.]	Under 16 (Penal Code 1926, sec. 900(2)). Child under 17 or under 18, according to sex, may be transferred to juvenile court (Penal Code 1926, sec. 900(14)), but which limit applies to which sex is not indicated.	Exclusive original (Penal Code 1926, sec. 900(1)), but see Col. V.	No jurisdiction of crime punishable by life imprisonment or death (Penal Code 1926, sec. 900(2)). Court may transfer to a court having jurisdiction of the crime (Penal Code 1926, sec. 900(2)). The superior court may prosecute child for crime (Const., art. 6, sec. 4, par. 1; Hicks v. State, 146 Ga. 706). But the juvenile court may treat as delinquent a child who has committed a felony, thus preventing criminal trial (which would cause double jeopardy) (Williams v. Davidson et al., 147 Ga. 478).		Juvenile court. If facts constitute crime in addition to contributing to delinquency or dependency the defendant must be committed to proper criminal court (Penal Code 1926, sec. 900(37)).
IDAHO: Supreme court. District courts. Probate courts. Justices of the peace. Police judges.	Probate court (Comp. Stat. 1919, sec. 1011).	Under 18 (Comp. Stat. 1919, secs. 1010, 7902).	Exclusive, except over children charged with felonies. (Comp. Stat. 1919, sec. 1014).			Misdemeanor (Comp. Stat. 1919, sec. 1017): See Col. VIII.
ILLINOIS: Supreme court. Appellate courts. Circuit courts. Superior court of Cook County. Criminal court of Cook County (judges assigned from the superior and circuit courts of Cook County). Probate courts. County courts. City or municipal courts. Justices of the peace. Police magistrates.	Circuit court in counties over 500,000 (Smith-Hurd's Rev. Stat. 1925, ch. 23, sec. 192). Circuit court, county court, city court elsewhere (Rev. Stat. 1925, ch. 23, sec. 191; 1927, p. 390, sec. 12a).	Under 17 (boys), under 18 (girls) (Rev. Stat. 1925, ch. 23, sec. 190).	Exclusive original (Rev. Stat. 1925, ch. 23, sec. 191). ⁹	Court may allow criminal prosecution of delinquents (Rev. Stat. 1925, ch. 23, sec. 199). Jury trial may be had on demand or in discretion of court (Rev. Stat. 1925, ch. 23, sec. 191).		Misdemeanor (Rev. Stat. 1925, ch. 38, secs. 101, 104). See Col. VIII except police magistrate and justice of the peace (Const., art. 6, sec. 21; Rev. Stat. 1925, ch. 79, sec. 16 (15)).
INDIANA: Supreme court. Appellate courts. Circuit courts. Superior courts. Criminal courts. Probate courts. Juvenile court. City or municipal courts. Justices of the peace.	Independent juvenile court in counties containing city of 100,000 (Burns's Annotated Stat. 1926, sec. 1694). Probate court in Vanderburgh County (Stat. 1926, sec. 1787). Circuit court elsewhere (Stat. 1926, sec. 1694).	Under 16 (dependent, neglected, or delinquent boys); under 17 (dependent or neglected girls); under 18 (delinquent girls) (Stat. 1926, secs. 1695, 1698).	Exclusive except over children charged with offenses punishable by life imprisonment or death (Stat. 1926, sec. 1705).	Jury trial may be had on demand (Stat. 1926, sec. 1705).		Juvenile court (Stat. 1926, secs. 1696, 1787). If it appears that the act constitutes a felony the court may transfer the case to the criminal court where established, to the circuit court elsewhere (Stat. 1926, sec. 1696).

⁹ The juvenile-court laws of Illinois define a delinquent child as "one who violates any State law." State's attorneys have assumed, however, that when a crime has been committed the court acting as juvenile court acts only with the implied approval of the State's attorney and that even though the juvenile court has taken jurisdiction and made a disposition the criminal court may try on the criminal charge.

IN CHILDREN'S CASES AND CASES OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS—Continued

IN OTHER JUVENILE AND FAMILY CASES

OFFENSES AGAINST CHILDREN VIII	DESERTION AND NONSUPPORT IX	ESTABLISHMENT OF PATERNITY AND SUPPORT OF CHILDREN BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK X	ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, SEPARATE MAINTENANCE XI	ADOPTION, GUARDIANSHIP XII	COMMITMENT OF MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN XIII
Misdemeanors: Superior court. County court. City court (criminal court of Atlanta). Felonies: Superior court.	Abandonment of child: Misdemeanor (Penal Code 1926, sec. 116). See Col. VIII.	Preliminaries: Justice of the peace (Penal Code 1926, sec. 1330). Trial: Superior court, county court (Penal Code 1926, sec. 1332). Voluntary petition by father: Superior court (Michie's Code 1926, sec. 3013).	Annulment: No statutory provision. Divorce is granted for causes that in other States are grounds for annulment. Divorce, limited divorce, separate maintenance: Superior court (Code 1926, secs. 2944, 2947, 2983.)	Adoption: Superior court (Code 1926, sec. 3016, amended by 1927, No. 154, p. 142). Guardianship: Juvenile court (delinquent, dependent, or neglected child, or child whose custody is in question), court of ordinary (Code 1926, sec. 3035; Penal Code 1926, sec. 900(35)).	Court of ordinary; court commitment not required in all cases (Code 1926, sec. 1614(5)).
Misdemeanors: District court. Probate court. Justice of the peace. Police judge. Felonies: District court.	Probate court (1923, ch. 190).	District court (1925, ch. 198).	Annulment, divorce: District court (Comp. Stat. 1919, secs. 4620, 4653). Limited divorce, separate maintenance: No statutory provision.	Probate court (Comp. Stat. 1919, secs. 4687, 7842).	Any court of record (district court, probate court) (Comp. Stat. 1919, secs. 1217, 1225, amended by 1921, ch. 139).
Misdemeanors: Circuit court (except in Cook County). City court, municipal court of Chicago. County court. Justice of the peace. Police magistrate. Criminal court of Cook County (judges assigned from the superior and circuit courts of Cook County). Felonies: Circuit court (except in Cook County). City court (except municipal court of Chicago). Criminal court of Cook County.	Nonsupport of wife, desertion or nonsupport of child under 18: Misdemeanor (Rev. Stat. 1925, ch. 68, sec. 24). See Col. VIII except police magistrate and justice of the peace (Const., art. 6, sec. 21; Rev. Stat. 1925, ch. 79, sec. 16(15)). Abandonment of child under 1 year of age: Felony (Rev. Stat. 1925, ch. 38, sec. 99). See Col. VIII. Nonsupport of family (idle and dissolute person): Municipal court in Chicago, justice of the peace or police magistrate elsewhere (Rev. Stat. 1925, ch. 38, secs. 578, 579).	Preliminaries: Courts having jurisdiction of trial, justice of the peace (Rev. Stat. 1925, ch. 17, sec. 1). Trial: Juvenile court, other court of competent jurisdiction (circuit court, county court, city court) (Rev. Stat. 1925, ch. 23, sec. 192; ch. 17, sec. 4), municipal court of Chicago (Rev. Stat. 1925, ch. 37, sec. 357), criminal court of Cook County (Const., art. 6, sec. 26).	Annulment: No statutory provision. Divorce is granted for causes that in other States are grounds for annulment. Divorce, separate maintenance: Circuit court and superior court in Cook County, circuit court and city court elsewhere (Rev. Stat. 1925, ch. 37, sec. 333; ch. 40, sec. 5). Limited divorce: No statutory provision.	Adoption: Circuit court, county court (Rev. Stat. 1925, ch. 4, sec. 1), city court (Rev. Stat. 1925, ch. 37, sec. 333). The superior court of Cook County exercises jurisdiction concurrently with circuit and county courts. Guardianship: Juvenile court (delinquent or dependent children), probate court where established, county court elsewhere (Rev. Stat. 1925, ch. 23, secs. 175, 177; ch. 37, sec. 303).	Feeble-minded: Circuit court, county court, city court (Rev. Stat. 1925, ch. 23, sec. 348). Epileptic: Any court of record (circuit court, county court, city court); court commitment not required in all cases (Rev. Stat. 1925, ch. 23, sec. 184).
Misdemeanors: Circuit court. Superior court. Criminal court (exclusive where established). Justice of the peace. City or municipal court. Felonies: Criminal court (exclusive where established). Circuit court. Superior court.	Nonsupport of child under 14: Criminal court where established, circuit court elsewhere (Stat. 1926, secs. 2867, 2869). Nonsupport of wife or child (boy under 16, girl under 17): Misdemeanor (Stat. 1926, sec. 2870). See Col. VIII except justice of the peace (Stat. 1926, sec. 1943). Desertion of wife or child (age not specified): Felony (Stat. 1926, sec. 2866). See Col. VIII.	Preliminaries: Justice of the peace (Stat. 1926, sec. 1049). Trial: Circuit court (Stat. 1926, sec. 1058). For purposes of evidence any person interested may file petition in circuit court or superior court (Stat. 1926, sec. 9867).	Superior court, circuit court (Stat. 1926, secs. 9864, 1091, 1097; 1923, ch. 63).	Adoption: Probate court where established (Stat. 1926, secs. 1753, 1762), circuit court elsewhere (Stat. 1926, sec. 913). Circuit, superior, and probate courts have jurisdiction for adoption of dependent or neglected children; circuit and superior courts have jurisdiction for adoption of inmates of house of refuge or reformatory for females (Stat. 1926, sec. 917). Guardianship: Probate court where established (Stat. 1926, sec. 1762), circuit court and superior court elsewhere (Stat. 1926, secs. 1376, 1414).	Circuit court (hearing in chambers); court commitment not required in all cases of feeble-mindedness (Stat. 1926, secs. 4175, 4183, 4231).

TABULAR SUMMARY OF STATE LAWS RELATING TO ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

COURT SYSTEMS		JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JURISDICTION IN CASES OF DELINQUENCY, DEPENDENCY, AND NEGLECT			COURTS HAVING JURISDICTION	
STATE AND COURTS IN STATE I	JUVENILE OR FAMILY COURT SYSTEM II	AGE LIMIT III	NATURE OF JURISDICTION IV	EXCEPTIONS OR MODIFICATIONS, PROVISIONS FOR JURY TRIAL V	OFFENSES OF MINORS OVER DELINQUENCY AGE VI	CONTRIBUTING TO DELINQUENCY OR DEPENDENCY VII
IOWA: Supreme court. District courts. Juvenile courts. Municipal courts. Superior courts. Justices of the peace. Police courts. Mayor's courts.	Independent juvenile court (district-court judges preside unless they designate superior-court or municipal-court judges) (Code 1927, sec. 3605).	Under 21 (Code 1927, sec. 3666).	Exclusive original over children under 18 (Code 1927, sec. 3634).	No jurisdiction of offenses punishable by life imprisonment or death (Code 1927, sec. 3617). Child charged with indictable offense may be transferred to district court for trial (Code 1927, sec. 3632). ¹⁰ Child under 18 convicted of offense not punishable by life imprisonment or death may be transferred by district court to juvenile court for commitment (Code 1927, sec. 3636). Jury trial of child charged with nonindictable offense may be had in discretion of juvenile court (Code 1927, sec. 3632). ¹⁰		Contributing to delinquency: Juvenile court (Code 1927, sec. 3661). Non-indictable misdemeanor (Code 1927, secs. 3658, 3659). See Col. VIII and footnote 26, p. 4.
KANSAS: Supreme court. District courts. Probate courts. County courts. Juvenile courts. City courts. Justices of the peace. Police courts. Small debtor's courts.	Independent juvenile court (Rev. Stat. 1923, sec. 38-401).	Under 16 (Rev. Stat. 1923, sec. 38-402).	Exclusive original (Rev. Stat. 1923, secs. 38-401, 38-411).	Court may remand felony case to criminal court for trial (Rev. Stat. 1923, sec. 38-413).		Juvenile court (Rev. Stat. 1923, sec. 38-416).
KENTUCKY: Court of appeals. Circuit courts. Quarterly courts. County courts. Justices of the peace. Police courts.	County court (Baldwin's Stat. Service 1922-23 (Supp. to Carroll's Stat. 1922), sec. 331e-2).	Under 17 (boys), under 18 (girls) (Carroll's Stat. 1922, sec. 331e-1). Includes birthday of year specified.	Exclusive original (Supp. 1922-23, sec. 331e-2).	Court may remand case to court having jurisdiction of offense (Stat. 1922, sec. 331e-5). Jury trial may be had on demand or in discretion of court (Stat. 1922, sec. 331e-2).		County court (Supp. 1922-23, sec. 331g-3).
LOUISIANA: Supreme court. Courts of appeal. District courts (civil district court and criminal district court in Orleans Parish). Juvenile courts. City criminal courts. Justices of the peace. City courts (New Orleans). Municipal courts. Recorder's courts (New Orleans).	Independent juvenile court in Orleans Parish (Const. 1921, art. 7, secs. 52, 96) and Caddo Parish (1922, No. 119, amended by 1924, No. 30). District court elsewhere (Const. 1921, art. 7, sec. 52).	Under 17 (Const. 1921, art. 7, secs. 52, 96). Includes seven-teenth birthday.	Exclusive original (Const. 1921, art. 7, secs. 52, 96).	No jurisdiction in Orleans Parish of capital offenses (Const. 1921, art. 7, sec. 96); no jurisdiction elsewhere of capital offenses or assault with intent to commit rape (Const. 1921, art. 7, sec. 52).		Juvenile court (Const. 1921, art. 7, secs. 52, 96).
MAINE: Supreme judicial court. Superior courts. Probate courts. Trial justices. Municipal courts. Police courts. Justices of the peace.	No juvenile-court system. With some exceptions (as Rev. Stat. 1916, ch. 137, secs. 15 and 18, providing for personal recognizance of parents or guardians of children under 16 in lieu of bail and for continuance without trial, the child being placed in custody of a probation officer) minors are treated like adults. Boys between 11 and 17 convicted of offenses punishable otherwise than by imprisonment for life may be committed by the court hearing the case to the State school for boys, records to show conviction of "juvenile delinquency," and girls between 9 and 17 similarly convicted or in danger of falling into habits of vice or immorality or leading an idle or vicious life may be committed to the State school for girls. The court may exclude the public from hearings and may withhold records from indiscriminate public inspection. (Rev. Gen. Stat. 1916, ch. 144, secs. 3, 20; 1921, chs. 55, 129.)					Certain acts (selling or giving tobacco, liquor, narcotic drugs, firearms, or dangerous weapons to children under 16), defined as encouraging, causing, or contributing to delinquency, are misdemeanors (Rev. Stat. 1916, ch. 120, secs. 33, 34). See Col. VIII.

¹⁰ In Iowa an indictable offense is punishable by fine of more than \$100 or by more than 30 days' imprisonment. Only the district court in regular session and the municipal courts have jurisdiction. The other courts that are listed have full jurisdiction of nonindictable offenses but only preliminary jurisdiction of indictable misdemeanors.

IN CHILDREN'S CASES AND CASES OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS—Continued

IN OTHER JUVENILE AND FAMILY CASES

OFFENSES AGAINST CHILDREN VIII	DESERTION AND NONSUPPORT IX	ESTABLISHMENT OF PATERNITY AND SUPPORT OF CHILDREN BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK X	ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, SEPARATE MAINTENANCE XI	ADOPTION, GUARDIANSHIP XII	COMMITMENT OF MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN XIII
Nonindictable misdemeanors: ¹⁰ District court. Juvenile court. Municipal court. Superior court. Justice of the peace. Mayor's court. Indictable misdemeanors: ¹⁰ District court. Municipal court. Felonies: District court.	Desertion of wife or child under 16: Felony (Code 1927, sec. 13230). See Col. VIII.	Preliminaries: Any court or magistrate having power to commit for trial (Code 1927, sec. 12667-a12). Trial: District court (Code 1927, sec. 12667-a10).	Annulment, divorce: District court (Code 1927, secs. 10468, 10487). Limited divorce, separate maintenance: No statutory provision.	Adoption: Any court of record (district court, superior court, juvenile court, municipal court) (Code 1927, sec. 10501b). Guardianship: District court (Code 1927, sec. 10763).	Feeble-minded: District court, superior court, municipal court; court commitment not required in all cases (Code 1927, secs. 3405, 3413, 3470). Epileptic: Court commitment not required (county commissioners of insanity commit) (Code 1927, secs. 3470, 3471, 3552).
Misdemeanors: District court. County court. City court. Justice of the peace. Felonies: District court.	Felony (Rev. Stat. 1923, sec. 21-442). See Col. VIII.	Preliminaries: City court, justice of the peace (Rev. Stat. 1923, secs. 62-2301, 20-1403). Trial: District court (Rev. Stat. 1923, sec. 62-2304).	District court (Const., art. 2, sec. 18; Rev. Stat. 1923, secs. 60-1515, 60-1516).	Probate court (Rev. Stat. 1923, secs. 38-106, 38-202).	Probate court (Rev. Stat. 1923, sec. 39-236).
Misdemeanors: Circuit court. County court. Police court. Justice of the peace. Felonies: Circuit court.	Desertion or nonsupport of child under 16 or pregnant wife: Circuit court (Stat. 1922, sec. 331i-2; Supp. 1922-23, sec. 331i-1).	County court (Stat. 1922, sec. 167).	Circuit court (Stat. 1922, secs. 966, 2100, 2117, 2121).	Circuit court (Stat. 1922, secs. 2015, 2071).	Circuit court (1924, ch. 101).
Misdemeanors: ¹¹ Juvenile court. District court, criminal district court (Orleans Parish). City criminal court. Municipal court. Justice of the peace. Felonies: ¹¹ District court, criminal district court in Orleans Parish.	Juvenile court (Const. 1921, art. 7, secs. 52, 90).	Under certain circumstances subsequent marriage of parents may legitimate, or either parent may legitimate the child by notarial act (Merrick's Rev. Civil Code 1926, arts. 198, 200, 202, 203). No other statutory provision.	District court (civil district court in Orleans Parish) (Const. 1921, art. 7, secs. 35, 81; Marr's Rev. Code of Practice 1927, pp. 59, 60).	Adoption: Court action not required. A person under 21 may be adopted by act executed before a parish recorder or notary (Rev. Code of Practice, 1927, p. 274). Tutorship (corresponds to guardianship in other States): Civil district court in Orleans Parish, district court (Const. 1921, art. 7, sec. 81; Rev. Code of Practice 1927, p. 649).	District court (civil district court in Orleans Parish) (Rev. Code of Practice 1927, p. 288).
Misdemeanors: Supreme judicial court. Superior court. Municipal court. Police court. Justice's court. Justice of the peace. Felonies: Supreme judicial court. Superior court.	Nonsupport of wife or minor child: Supreme judicial court, superior court, probate court, municipal court (Rev. Stat. 1916, ch. 66, sec. 9, amended by 1927, ch. 98). Desertion or nonsupport of wife or child under 16: Misdemeanor (Rev. Stat. 1916, ch. 120, sec. 39, amended by 1923, ch. 157, and 1925, ch. 17; for courts listed see Col. VIII); felony (Rev. Stat. 1916, ch. 120, sec. 38, amended by 1923, ch. 157). See Col. VIII.	Preliminaries: Justice of the peace (Rev. Stat. 1916, ch. 102). Trial: Superior court (exclusive original jurisdiction where established), supreme judicial court (Rev. Stat. 1916, ch. 102). Voluntary acknowledgment by father: Justice of the peace (Rev. Stat. 1916, ch. 80, sec. 3).	Annulment, divorce: Superior court (exclusive original where established), supreme judicial court (Rev. Stat. 1916, ch. 65, secs. 2, 15; ch. 82, secs. 80, 84). Separate maintenance: Probate court (Rev. Stat. 1916, ch. 66, sec. 10). Limited divorce: No statutory provision.	Probate court (Rev. Stat. 1916, ch. 72, secs. 1, 35).	Probate court; court commitment not required in all cases (Rev. Stat. 1916, ch. 145, secs. 47, 49).

¹¹ The terms "felony" and "misdemeanor" do not occur in the Louisiana statutes. In this tabulation offenses punishable by death or imprisonment at hard labor are classed as felonies and offenses punishable otherwise are classed as misdemeanors.

TABULAR SUMMARY OF STATE LAWS RELATING TO ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

COURT SYSTEMS		JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JURISDICTION IN CASES OF DELINQUENCY, DEPENDENCY, AND NEGLECT			COURTS HAVING JURISDICTION	
STATE AND COURTS IN STATE	JUVENILE OR FAMILY COURT SYSTEM	AGE LIMIT	NATURE OF JURISDICTION	EXCEPTIONS OR MODIFICATIONS, PROVISIONS FOR JURY TRIAL	OFFENSES OF MINORS OVER DELINQUENCY AGE	CONTRIBUTING TO DELINQUENCY OR DEPENDENCY
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
MARYLAND: Court of appeals. Circuit courts. Orphans' courts. Juvenile courts. Justices of the peace. Police magistrates, people's courts. Supreme bench (Baltimore city). Superior court (Baltimore city). Court of common pleas (Baltimore city). Criminal court (Baltimore city).	Independent juvenile court in Baltimore city (1910, ch. 41, amended by 1927, ch. 516), Allegany County (1914, ch. 701, amended by 1927, ch. 654), and Washington County (1924, ch. 36). Circuit court where designated by judges of judicial circuit (Bagby's Annotated Code 1924, art. 26, sec. 48). No juvenile-court organization elsewhere, but courts of record and justices of the peace exercise jurisdiction over children, following regular criminal procedure (Code 1924, art. 26, sec. 60; art. 42, sec. 19).	Under 16 in Baltimore city and Allegany and Washington Counties; girls under 18, boys under 20, where circuit court has been designated.	Exclusive.	Case may be tried under regular criminal procedure if jury trial is demanded where circuit court has been designated (Code 1924, art. 26, sec. 53).	Minors under the age of 18 are dealt with by juvenile courts of Baltimore city and Allegany and Washington Counties under police-magistrate powers (Code 1924, art. 42, sec. 19; art. 27, sec. 380; 1927, ch. 516).	Juvenile court in Allegany County (1914, ch. 701, amended by 1927, ch. 664) and Washington County (1924, ch. 36). Misdemeanor: Juvenile court and criminal courts in Baltimore city, circuit court elsewhere in juvenile session where designated; see also Col. VIII (Code 1924, art. 26, secs. 59, 61, 64, 69).
MASSACHUSETTS: Supreme judicial court. Superior courts. Probate courts and insolvency courts. District courts and municipal courts. Juvenile court (Boston). Trial justices.	Independent juvenile court in Boston central court district (Gen. Laws 1921, ch. 119, secs. 42, 52-65). District court elsewhere (Gen. Laws 1921, ch. 119, secs. 42-52, 65).	Under 16 (neglected); under 17 (delinquent or wayward).	Exclusive original (Gen. Laws 1921, ch. 119, sec. 61).	No jurisdiction of offenses punishable by life imprisonment or death (Gen. Laws 1921, ch. 119, sec. 52). Court may remand for criminal trial for violation of any State law, city ordinance, or town by-law (Gen. Laws 1921, ch. 119, sec. 61).	Minors between 16 and 21 (except married women) who have not completed the sixth grade of the public school (or equivalent) and stubborn children may be treated as misdemeanants (Gen. Laws 1921, ch. 76, sec. 3, amended by 1926, ch. 188; ch. 272, sec. 53). See Col. VIII.	Contributing to delinquency or waywardness: Misdemeanor: Juvenile court and municipal court in Boston central court district (Gen. Laws 1921, ch. 119, sec. 63). See Col. VIII.
MICHIGAN: Supreme court. Circuit courts. Superior court (Grand Rapids). Recorder's court (Detroit). Probate courts. Justice's courts. Justices of the peace. Police courts.	Probate court (Comp. Laws 1915, sec. 2012, amended by 1925, No. 117).	Under 17 (Comp. Laws 1915, sec. 2011, amended by 1927, No. 127).	Exclusive original (Comp. Laws 1915, sec. 2016, amended by 1923, No. 105).	Court may remand child over 15 accused of felony to court having jurisdiction of offense. Jury trial may be had on demand or in discretion of court (Comp. Laws 1915, sec. 2012, amended by 1925, No. 117).	Wayward minors between 17 and 21 are dealt with by probate court in juvenile session (exclusive original) (1927, No. 127).	Misdemeanor (1927, No. 319, chs. 30, 36). See Col. VIII.
MINNESOTA: Supreme court. District courts. Probate courts. Justices of the peace. Municipal courts.	District court in fourth judicial district and counties over 33,000 except seventh judicial district (Mason's Stat. 1927, secs. 8637, 8641). Probate court elsewhere (Stat. 1927, secs. 8637, 8641). ¹²	Under 18 (Stat. 1927, sec. 8637).	Exclusive original (Stat. 1927, secs. 8637, 8657).	Court may permit criminal proceedings against child over 12 (Stat. 1927, sec. 8656). Jury trial may be had on demand or in discretion of court where district court has juvenile sessions (Stat. 1927, sec. 8637).		Misdemeanor: Juvenile court where district court has juvenile sessions, court having jurisdiction of offense elsewhere (Stat. 1927, secs. 8662, 8663). See Col. VIII.
MISSISSIPPI: Supreme court. Circuit courts. Chancery courts. County courts. Justices of the peace, police courts, police justices, mayor's courts.	Chancery court, circuit court (Hemingway's Annotated Code 1917, sec. 4970).	Under 18 (Code 1917, sec. 4975).	Concurrent. ¹³	Court may remand for criminal trial in the circuit court (Code 1917, sec. 4976). The court obtaining jurisdiction may transfer case to chancery court for delinquency hearing (Code 1917, sec. 4975).		Juvenile court, court having jurisdiction of offense (Code 1917, sec. 4974). See Col. VIII.

¹²In Minnesota the powers of the probate court with reference to delinquent children are limited to appointment of guardians and to remanding of children to the criminal court. Such guardians may be the State board of control, State, county, or city institutions, or incorporated institutions and associations.

IN CHILDREN'S CASES AND CASES OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS—Continued

IN OTHER JUVENILE AND FAMILY CASES

OFFENSES AGAINST CHILDREN VIII	DESERTION AND NONSUPPORT IX	ESTABLISHMENT OF PATERNITY AND SUPPORT OF CHILDREN BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK X	ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, SEPARATE MAINTENANCE XI	ADOPTION, GUARDIANSHIP XII	COMMITMENT OF MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN XIII
Misdemeanors: Circuit court. Criminal court (Baltimore city). Justice of the peace. People's court or police magistrate. Juvenile court where independent. Felonies: Circuit court. Criminal court (Baltimore city).	Circuit court, juvenile court in Allegany County (1927, ch. 334), circuit court in juvenile session where designated (Code 1924, art. 27, sec. 59). Misdemeanor (Code 1924, art. 27, sec. 87). See Col. VIII.	Preliminaries: Justice of the peace (Code 1924, art. 12, sec. 3). Trial: Circuit court, criminal court of Baltimore city (Code 1924, art. 12, sec. 3).	Annulment: Superior court and criminal court (Baltimore city), circuit court (Code 1924, art. 62, sec. 14). Divorce, limited divorce, separate maintenance: Circuit court (Code 1924, art. 16, secs. 14, 15, 37, 39).	Circuit court (Code 1924, art. 16, secs. 74, 80).	Feeble-minded: Juvenile court in Washington County (1924, ch. 36), circuit court in juvenile session where designated, orphans' court; court commitment not required in all cases (Code 1924, art. 26, sec. 47; art. 59, sec. 50). Epileptic: Orphans' court; court commitment not required in all cases (Code 1924, art. 59, secs. 51, 54).
Misdemeanors: Superior court. District court, municipal court. Trial justice. Felonies: Superior court.	Superior court, district court, trial justice (Gen. Laws 1921, ch. 273, sec. 2).	Superior court, district court (Gen. Laws 1921, ch. 273, sec. 11).	Annulment: Superior court, probate court (Gen. Laws 1921, ch. 207, sec. 14). Divorce: Superior court, probate court (Cum. Stat. 1927, ch. 208, sec. 6). Separate maintenance: Probate court (Cum. Stat. 1927, ch. 209, sec. 32). Limited divorce: No statutory provision.	Probate court (Gen. Laws 1921, ch. 201, sec. 1; ch. 210, sec. 1).	Feeble-minded: Probate court (Gen. Laws 1921, ch. 123, sec. 66). Court commitment not required in all cases (Cum. Stat. 1927, ch. 123, sec. 66a). Epileptic: Probate court (Nantucket and Suffolk Counties), district court (including municipal court of Boston), superior court; court commitment not required in all cases (Gen. Laws 1921, ch. 123, secs. 50, 62, 69, 87).
Misdemeanors: Circuit court. Superior court (Grand Rapids). Recorder's court (Detroit). Justice of the peace. Police court. Felonies: Circuit court. Superior court (Grand Rapids). Recorder's court (Detroit).	Desertion or nonsupport of wife or child under 16: Felony (1923, No. 239). See Col. VIII. Nonsupport of family (disorderly person): Misdemeanor (1927, No. 35). See Col. VIII.	Preliminaries: Justice of the peace (Comp. Laws 1915, secs. 7753, 7754). Trial: Circuit court (Comp. Laws 1915, sec. 7754).	Circuit court (Comp. Laws 1915, secs. 11394, 11397, 11398, 11430).	Probate court (Comp. Laws 1915, sec. 13950 (1); sec. 14142, amended by 1923, No. 70).	Probate court (1923, No. 151, sec. 11).
Misdemeanors: District court. Justice of the peace. Municipal court. Felonies: District court.	Nonsupport of wife or child under 16: Justice of the peace, municipal court (Gen. Stat. 1927, secs. 10136, 10137). Desertion of child under 16 or pregnant wife: Felony (Stat. 1927, sec. 10135). See Col. VIII.	Preliminaries: Justice of the peace, municipal court (Stat. 1927, sec. 3261). Trial: District court (Stat. 1927, secs. 3263, 3265).	District court (Stat. 1927, secs. 8582, 8585, 8608, 8613, 8614).	Adoption: District court (Stat. 1927, sec. 8624). Guardianship: Probate court (Stat. 1927, sec. 8916).	Feeble-minded: Probate court; court commitment not required in all cases (Stat. 1927, secs. 4498, 8954, 8953, 8956). Epileptic: Court commitment not required (Stat. 1927, sec. 4498).
Misdemeanors: Circuit court. County court. Justice of the peace, police court, police justice, mayor's court. Felonies: Circuit court.	Desertion or nonsupport of wife or child under 16: Felony (Hemingway's Supp. 1921, sec. 2056a; 1928, extra session, ch. 89). See Col. VIII.	Preliminaries: Justice of the peace (Code 1917, sec. 217). Trial: Circuit court (Code 1917, sec. 217). Voluntary petition by father: Chancery court (Code 1917, sec. 299).	Annulment, limited divorce: No statutory provision. Divorce is granted for causes that in other States are grounds for annulment. Divorce, separate maintenance: Chancery court (Const., sec. 159).	Chancery court (Code 1917, secs. 299, 1964).	Chancery court (Const., sec. 159).

¹³In Mississippi justices of the peace and mayor's courts may try misdemeanor charges against minors (keeping separate record). Appeal is to the circuit court, which hears the case as juvenile delinquency. Justices of the peace and mayor's courts may hold for the grand jury minors accused of felony, such cases being heard by the circuit court as cases of juvenile delinquency.

TABULAR SUMMARY OF STATE LAWS RELATING TO ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

COURT SYSTEMS		JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JURISDICTION IN CASES OF DELINQUENCY, DEPENDENCY, AND NEGLECT			COURTS HAVING JURISDICTION	
STATE AND COURTS IN STATE I	JUVENILE OR FAMILY COURT SYSTEM II	AGE LIMIT III	NATURE OF JURISDICTION IV	EXCEPTIONS OR MODIFICATIONS, PROVISIONS FOR JURY TRIAL V	OFFENSES OF MINORS OVER DELINQUENCY AGE VI	CONTRIBUTING TO DELINQUENCY OR DEPENDENCY VII
MISSOURI: Supreme court. Courts of appeal. Circuit courts. Courts of common pleas. Probate courts. County courts (like boards of county commissioners in other States). City courts. Court of criminal correction (St. Louis). Municipal-corporation courts. Police courts. Justices of the peace.	Circuit court (divisions of domestic relations) in St. Louis (Supp. 1927, sec. 2634a). Circuit court and court of common pleas in Cape Girardeau County (concurrent) (Supp. 1927, sec. 1136). Circuit court elsewhere (Rev. Stat. 1919, sec. 2592; Supp. 1927, sec. 1136a).	Under 17 (Rev. Stat. 1919, secs. 1135, 2591). ¹⁴	Concurrent original (Supp. 1927, sec. 2591a).	Juvenile court may dismiss petition and order criminal prosecution (Supp. 1927, sec. 2591a). Any court obtaining jurisdiction may transfer case to juvenile court (Supp. 1927, sec. 2591a). Jury trial may be had on demand if minor is charged with violation of criminal statute (Rev. Stat. 1919, sec. 2592; Supp. 1927, sec. 1136).	Minors 17 or over who commit acts that would constitute delinquency if committed by minor under 17 may be tried for misdemeanor in any court of record (Rev. Stat. 1919, sec. 1134). The following are courts of record: Circuit court, court of common pleas in Hannibal County, courts of criminal correction in St. Louis, municipal-corporation courts, juvenile court.	Contributing to delinquency or dependency: Juvenile court (after child has come under care or control of court) in counties less than 50,000 (Supp. 1927, sec. 1149a). Contributing to delinquency: Misdemeanor (Rev. Stat. 1919, sec. 3272). See Col. VIII except justice of the peace (Rev. Stat. 1919, secs. 2705, 2708).
MONTANA: Supreme court. District courts. Justices of the peace. Police courts. Municipal court (Butte).	District court (Rev. Code 1921, secs. 10467, 12277).	Under 17 (dependent, neglected); under 18 (delinquent) (Rev. Code 1921, secs. 10465, 12275).	Exclusive original (Rev. Code 1921, secs. 10466, 10479; Supp. 1927, sec. 12280).	No jurisdiction of offenses punishable by life imprisonment or death (Rev. Code 1921, sec. 12288). Court may permit criminal proceedings (Code 1921, sec. 12280). Jury trial may be had on demand or in discretion of court (Rev. Code 1921, secs. 12277, 10466).		Misdemeanor (Rev. Code 1921, secs. 10472, 12293), but jurisdiction in district court only.
NEBRASKA: Supreme court. District courts. County courts. Municipal courts. Justices of the peace. Police magistrates.	District court in counties over 50,000 (1925, ch. 56). District court and county court elsewhere (1925, ch. 56).	Under 18 (Comp. Stat. 1922, secs. 1173, 1183).	Exclusive over children under 16, concurrent over children 16-18.	Jury trial of child charged with crime may be had on demand or in discretion of court (Comp. Stat. 1922, sec. 1174).		District court (exclusive jurisdiction in counties over 50,000), county court (Comp. Stat. 1922, sec. 1194).
NEVADA: Supreme court. District courts. Justices of the peace. Recorder's courts.	District court (Rev. Laws 1912, sec. 729).	Under 18 (Rev. Laws 1912, sec. 728).	Exclusive original (Rev. Laws 1912, sec. 741).	Court may permit criminal proceedings (Rev. Laws 1912, sec. 737). Jury trial may be had on demand or in discretion of court (Rev. Laws 1912, sec. 729).	District court may treat minor over 18, under 21, charged with felony except capital offense or attempt to commit capital offense as delinquent with consent of such minor; after conviction in criminal court such minor may be treated as delinquent (Rev. Laws 1912, sec. 737).	Juvenile court (Rev. Laws 1912, sec. 757).
NEW HAMPSHIRE: Supreme court. Superior court. Probate courts. Justice's courts. Municipal or police courts.	Municipal court, justice's court (Public Laws 1926, ch. 110, sec. 3).	Under 17 (Public Laws 1926, ch. 110, sec. 1).	Concurrent original (Public Laws 1926, ch. 110, sec. 3).	No jurisdiction of capital and certain other offenses (Public Laws 1926, ch. 110, sec. 3). Court may remand to criminal court (Public Laws 1926, ch. 110, sec. 14). Criminal laws not affected (Public Laws 1926, ch. 110, sec. 31).		

¹⁴ Missouri legislation of 1923 amending Rev. Stat. 1919, sec. 2591 (see Supp. 1927, sec. 2591) raising the age jurisdiction to 18 in counties of 50,000 or more was held unconstitutional in 1928 (State v. Gregori, 2 SW. (2d.) 747).

IN CHILDREN'S CASES AND CASES OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS—Continued

IN OTHER JUVENILE AND FAMILY CASES

OFFENSES AGAINST CHILDREN VIII	DESERTION AND NONSUPPORT IX	ESTABLISHMENT OF PATERNITY AND SUPPORT OF CHILDREN BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK X	ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, SEPARATE MAINTENANCE XI	ADOPTION, GUARDIANSHIP XII	COMMITMENT OF MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN XIII
Misdemeanors: Circuit court. Court of criminal correction (exclusive) (St. Louis). Municipal-corporation court. Court of common pleas (Hannibal County). Justice of the peace. Police court. City court. Felonies: Circuit court. Court of common pleas (Hannibal County).	Desertion or nonsupport of wife or child under 16: Misdemeanor (Supp. 1927, sec. 3274). See Col. VIII except municipal-corporation court. Desertion of child under 15 by mother: Misdemeanor (Supp. 1927, sec. 3274). See Col. VIII except municipal-corporation court. Nonsupport of family (vagrancy): Misdemeanor (Rev. Stat. 1919, sec. 3581). See Col. VIII. Abandonment of child under 6: Felony (Rev. Stat. 1919, sec. 3271). See Col. VIII.	Circuit court (Supp. 1927, sec. 311a).	Annulment: Circuit court (divisions of domestic relations) in St. Louis (Supp. 1927, sec. 2634a). No statutory provision elsewhere. Divorce is granted for causes that in other States are grounds for annulment. Divorce: Circuit court (divisions of domestic relations) in St. Louis, circuit court elsewhere (Rev. Stat. 1919, sec. 1802; Supp. 1927, sec. 2634a). Limited divorce: No statutory provision.	Adoption: Juvenile court (Rev. Stat. 1919, sec. 1095). Guardianship: Probate court (Rev. Stat. 1919, sec. 374).	Probate court (Rev. Stat. 1919, sec. 444), county court (like board of county commissioners in other States) (Rev. Stat. 1919, secs. 12279, 12391), juvenile court (delinquent or neglected children) (Rev. Stat. 1919, sec. 2607).
Misdemeanors: District court. Justice of the peace. Police court. Municipal court (Butte). Felonies: District court.	Desertion or nonsupport of wife or child under 16: Misdemeanor (Rev. Code 1921, sec. 11017). See Col. VIII. Desertion of child under 15: Felony (Rev. Code 1921, sec. 11020). See Col. VIII.	District court (Rev. Code 1921, sec. 12267).	District court (Rev. Code 1921, secs. 5728, 8829).	District court (Rev. Code 1921, secs. 5861, 10401).	District court; court commitment not required in all cases (Rev. Code 1921, secs. 1461, 1475, 1478).
Misdemeanors: District court. County court. Justice of the peace. Municipal court. Felonies: District court.	Desertion or nonsupport of wife or child under 16: District court (juvenile-court judge presiding) (Comp. Stat. 1922, secs. 9584, 9585).	Preliminaries: Justice of the peace (Comp. Stat. 1922, sec. 274). Trial: District court (Comp. Stat. 1922, sec. 281).	Annulment: District court (Comp. Stat. 1922, sec. 1507). Divorce, limited divorce, separate maintenance: District court, juvenile court (Comp. Stat. 1922, secs. 1175, 1516, 1517, 1552).	County court (Comp. Stat. 1922, secs. 1568, 1577).	County court, juvenile court (Comp. Stat. 1922, sec. 6881).
Misdemeanors: District court. Justice of the peace. Recorder's court. Felonies: District court.	Desertion or nonsupport of wife or child under 16: Misdemeanor (1923, ch. 170). See Col. VIII except recorder's court (Rev. Laws 1912, sec. 4854).	Preliminaries: Any court having power to commit for trial (district court, justice of the peace, recorder's court) (1923, ch. 87). Trial: District court (1923, ch. 87).	Annulment, divorce: District court (Const., sec. 407; Rev. Laws 1912, sec. 2357; 1923, ch. 214). Limited divorce, separate maintenance: No statutory provision.	District court (Rev. Laws 1912, secs. 5826, 6150).	Feeble-minded: District court; court commitment not required in all cases (board of county commissioners and superintendent of public instruction may commit) (Rev. Laws 1912, sec. 2211; Rev. Laws 1919, p. 2874).
Misdemeanors: Superior court. Justice of the peace. Municipal or police court. Felonies: Superior court.	Nonsupport of wife or child under 16; of child 16-21 if physically or mentally incapable of self-support: Misdemeanor (Public Laws 1926, ch. 288, secs. 14, 15). See Col. VIII.	Preliminaries: Justice of the peace (Public Laws 1926, ch. 111, sec. 1). Trial: Superior court (Public Laws 1926, ch. 111, sec. 2).	Superior court (Const., pt. 2, art. 76; Public Laws 1926, ch. 287, sec. 24; ch. 316, sec. 6).	Probate court (Public Laws 1926, ch. 290, sec. 1; ch. 292, sec. 1).	Probate court; court commitment not required in all cases (Public Laws 1926, ch. 112, secs. 2, 9).

TABULAR SUMMARY OF STATE LAWS RELATING TO ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

COURT SYSTEMS		JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JURISDICTION IN CASES OF DELINQUENCY, DEPENDENCY, AND NEGLECT			COURTS HAVING JURISDICTION	
STATE AND COURTS IN STATE	JUVENILE OR FAMILY COURT SYSTEM	AGE LIMIT	NATURE OF JURISDICTION	EXCEPTIONS OR MODIFICATIONS, PROVISIONS FOR JURY TRIAL	OFFENSES OF MINORS OVER DELINQUENCY AGE	CONTRIBUTING TO DELINQUENCY OR DEPENDENCY
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
NEW JERSEY: Court of errors and appeals. Court for the trial of impeachment. Chancery court. Prerogative courts. Supreme court. Circuit courts. Courts of common pleas. Orphans' courts, surrogates. Courts of oyer and terminer. Courts of quarter sessions. Courts of special sessions. Juvenile and domestic-relations courts. District courts. Family court (Newark). Small-cause courts (justices of the peace). Police courts. Recorder's courts. Criminal courts. Criminal district courts.	Independent juvenile and domestic-relations court (judge of court of common pleas presiding except in counties of the first class and others in which a special judge is appointed) (1929, ch. 157). Family court in Newark (no juvenile jurisdiction) (Cum. Supp. 1911-1924, sec. 160-213).	Under 16 (1929, ch. 157).	Exclusive original (1929, ch. 157).		Juvenile and domestic-relations court may commit delinquent girls 16, under 17, to the State home for girls (1918, ch. 147, art. 3, secs. 325, 331-333, amended by 1919, ch. 97; 1925, ch. 191).	Contributing to delinquency and dependency: Juvenile and domestic-relations court (1929, ch. 157). Contributing to delinquency: Misdemeanor (Cum. Supp. 1911-1924, sec. 52-73c). See Col. VIII.
NEW MEXICO: Supreme court. District courts. Probate courts. Justices of the peace. Police magistrates.	Independent juvenile court, district judge presiding, for delinquents (1921, ch. 87). District court, for neglected and dependent children (1917, ch. 85).	Under 16 (1917, ch. 4, sec. 1; ch. 85).	Exclusive original (1921, ch. 87).	Criminal proceedings may be held in juvenile court if child is incorrigible or charged with offense for which jury trial is guaranteed (1917, ch. 4, sec. 9). Jury trial of delinquents may be had on demand (1917, ch. 85).	District court has exclusive jurisdiction over girls under 18 who are immoral, incorrigible, or accused of any offense except murder (1919, ch. 86).	Contributing to delinquency: Juvenile court (1921, ch. 87). Contributing to dependency: District court (1917, ch. 85).
NEW YORK: Court of appeals. Appellate division of the supreme court. Supreme court. County courts. Court of general sessions. Surrogate's courts. Children's courts. Courts of special sessions. Police courts, justices of the peace, and city magistrate's courts (including family court in New York City). City courts. Mayor's courts. Recorder's courts.	County court in Chautauqua County (1918, ch. 464, amended by 1928, ch. 812), Monroe County (1910, ch. 611), Ontario County (1913, ch. 270). Court of special sessions in Syracuse (1928, ch. 188). Independent children's court in New York City (1924, ch. 254, amended by 1925, ch. 596, and 1927, ch. 359) and in Buffalo (1928, ch. 807). Independent county children's court elsewhere (1922, ch. 547, amended by 1924, ch. 436; 1925, ch. 227; 1927, ch. 419). Domestic-relations court (branch of city court) in Buffalo (no juvenile jurisdiction) (1924, ch. 424). Family court (magistrate's court) in New York City (no juvenile jurisdiction) (1910, ch. 659, sec. 74, amended by 1911, ch. 881; 1913, ch. 689; 1914, ch. 464; 1915, ch. 531; 1919, ch. 339; 1920, ch. 844; 1921, ch. 250; 1922, ch. 595).	Under 16 (delinquent, neglected).	Exclusive original.	No jurisdiction of offenses punishable by life imprisonment or death (this exception not applicable in Chautauqua County). Jury trial may be had in discretion of court in county children's courts (1922, ch. 547, amended by 1924, ch. 436).	Persons between 16 and 21 may be treated as wayward minors by any magistrate except justice of the peace (1923, ch. 868, amended by 1925, ch. 389). Truants under 17 may be dealt with by the children's court (jurisdiction exclusive in Cortland and Westchester Counties, concurrent with that of courts of special sessions and police magistrates elsewhere) (1928, ch. 646).	County children's court, ¹⁵ Buffalo children's court, New York City children's court if child is delinquent, neglected, defective, or held as material witness (for references see Col. II); county court in Chautauqua County (1918, ch. 464), Monroe County (1910, ch. 612), Ontario County (1913, ch. 269). Misdemeanor (Cahill's Supp. 1927, ch. 41, sec. 494); City court, court of special sessions (also police justices and magistrates in Chautauqua County).

¹⁵ Recent decisions in New York interpret the State children's court act as limiting the jurisdiction of children's courts to cases involving children who are delinquent, neglected, defective, or held as material witnesses (as *People v. Hopkins*, 203 N. Y. S. 653; in re *Cole*, 208 N. Y. S. 753).

IN CHILDREN'S CASES AND CASES OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS—Continued

IN OTHER JUVENILE AND FAMILY CASES

OFFENSES AGAINST CHILDREN VIII	DESERTION AND NONSUPPORT IX	ESTABLISHMENT OF PATERNITY AND SUPPORT OF CHILDREN BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK X	ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, SEPARATE MAINTENANCE XI	ADOPTION, GUARDIANSHIP XII	COMMITMENT OF MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN XIII
Misdemeanors: Court of common pleas. Court of quarter sessions. Court of special sessions. Family court (Newark). Criminal court. Criminal district court. Police court. Recorder's court. Justice of the peace. Felonies: Court of quarter sessions. Court of oyer and terminer. Court of special sessions (if indictment and jury trial are waived).	Juvenile and domestic-relations court (1929, ch. 157); family court in Newark (Cum. Supp. 1911-1924, sec. 160-213); misdemeanor (Comp. Stat. 1910, p. 1935; Cum. Supp. 1911-1924, sec. 52-73e). See Col. VIII except justice of the peace.	Juvenile and domestic-relations court (1929, ch. 157); family court (Newark) (Cum. Supp. 1911-1924, sec. 160-213); any committing magistrate (judge of criminal court, of criminal district court, of juvenile and domestic-relations court, police justice, recorder, justice of the peace) (Comp. Stat. 1910, p. 184).	Chancery court (Comp. Stat. 1910, p. 2029).	Adoption: Orphans' court (Comp. Stat. 1910, p. 2807). Guardianship: Orphans' court, surrogates (Comp. Stat. 1910, p. 3826).	Juvenile and domestic-relations court, circuit court, court of common pleas; court commitment not required in all cases (Comp. Stat. 1910, p. 457; Cum. Supp. 1911-1924, secs. 34-152, 34-153, 34-167, 34-215, 34-228, 34-254, 34-258; 1929, ch. 157).
Misdemeanors: District court. Probate court. Police magistrate. Justice of the peace. Felonies: District court.	Abandonment of wife or family: Misdemeanor (Stat. 1915, sec. 1797). See Col. VIII except police magistrate and justice of the peace (1915, ch. 99, sec. 40). Nonsupport of family (idle and dissolute person): Justice of the peace, police magistrate (Stat. 1915, secs. 1770, 1773).	District court (1923, ch. 32).	Annulment, divorce: District court (Stat. 1915, secs. 2773, 3434). Limited divorce, separate maintenance: No statutory provision.	Adoption: District court (1925, ch. 5). Guardianship: District court, probate court (Stat. 1915, sec. 2581).	District court (1925, ch. 133).
Misdemeanors: County children's court, ¹⁵ Buffalo children's court, New York City children's court if child is delinquent, neglected, defective, or held as material witness. County court. Family court (New York City). Court of special sessions. City court. Mayor's court, police justice, justice of the peace. Felonies: Supreme court. County court. Court of general sessions.	Desertion or nonsupport of wife or child: County children's court (Const., art. 6, sec. 18; 1922, ch. 547, sec. 5, amended by 1924, ch. 436, and 1927, ch. 419). ¹⁵ Abandonment or nonsupport of family (vagrants, disorderly persons): Court of general sessions, police justice or justice of the peace, city court, mayor's court, recorder's court (Bender's Code of Criminal Procedure 1928, secs. 887(2), 890, 899, 900), New York City family court (for references see Col. II), Buffalo city court (1924, ch. 424, sec. 80). Desertion of child under 14, abandonment of child under 16 or pregnant wife: Felony (Consolidated Laws 1923, ch. 41, secs. 481, 480, 50). See Col. VIII.	County children's court; ¹⁵ county court in Chautauqua, Erie, Monroe, and Ontario Counties; court of special sessions in New York City (1925, ch. 533; Supp. 1927, ch. 14, sec. 122) and in Syracuse (1928, ch. 188); municipal court in Syracuse (1928, ch. 187).	Supreme court (Consolidated Laws 1923, ch. 14, sec. 7a).	Adoption: County children's court, county court, surrogate's court (Supp. 1927, ch. 14, sec. 112); New York City children's court if child is delinquent, neglected, defective, or held as material witness (1924, ch. 254). Guardianship: County children's court (for references see Col. II); New York City children's court if child is delinquent, neglected, defective, or held as material witness (1924, ch. 254); county court in Chautauqua County (1918, ch. 464), Monroe County (1910, ch. 612), Ontario County (1913, ch. 24); supreme court, surrogate's court (1920, sec. 172).	Feeble-minded: Children's court (in Chautauqua County delinquent or neglected children or those whose custody is in question), supreme court, any court of record; court commitment not required in all cases (Supp. 1927, ch. 36a, secs. 124, 132; 1928, ch. 812). Epileptic: Supreme court; any county court of record; court commitment not required in all cases (Supp. 1927, ch. 36a, secs. 153, 156).

TABULAR SUMMARY OF STATE LAWS RELATING TO ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

COURT SYSTEMS		JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JURISDICTION IN CASES OF DELINQUENCY, DEPENDENCY, AND NEGLECT			COURTS HAVING JURISDICTION	
STATE AND COURTS IN STATE	JUVENILE OR FAMILY COURT SYSTEM	AGE LIMIT	NATURE OF JURISDICTION	EXCEPTIONS OR MODIFICATIONS, PROVISIONS FOR JURY TRIAL	OFFENSES OF MINORS OVER DELINQUENCY AGE	CONTRIBUTING TO DELINQUENCY OR DEPENDENCY
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
NORTH CAROLINA: Supreme court. Superior courts. General county courts. Juvenile courts. Domestic-relations court. Justices of the peace. County recorder's courts. Municipal recorder's courts.	Independent juvenile court in cities 10,000 or more, certain towns and counties (Code 1927, secs. 5040, 5062). ¹⁵ Domestic-relations court in Mecklenburg County (1929, ch. 343). ¹⁶ Superior court (separate part presided over by clerk of court) elsewhere (Code 1927, sec. 5040).	Under 16 (Code 1927, sec. 5039).	Exclusive original.	Court may hold child 14-16 charged with felony punishable by less than 10 years' imprisonment for trial in superior court under criminal procedure; no jurisdiction of felony punishable by 10 or more years' imprisonment (Code 1927, sec. 5047; State v. Burnett, 179 N. C. 735).		Juvenile court (Code 1927, secs. 5057, 5058), domestic-relations court in Mecklenburg County (exclusive) (1929, ch. 343). Misdemeanor (Code 1927, sec. 5057). See Col. VIII.
NORTH DAKOTA: Supreme court. District courts. County courts. County courts of increased jurisdiction. Justices of the peace and police magistrates.	District court (Comp. Laws 1913, sec. 11404).	Under 18 (Comp. Laws 1913, sec. 11403).	Exclusive original (Comp. Laws 1913, sec. 5109 (amended by 1923, ch. 158), sec. 11416). ¹⁷	Court may permit criminal proceedings (Comp. Laws 1913, sec. 11412).		
OHIO: Supreme court. Courts of appeal. Courts of common pleas. Superior courts (none in State in 1929). Probate courts. Insolvency court (Cuyahoga County). Justices of the peace and mayor's courts, municipal or police courts.	Court of common pleas (division of domestic relations) in Franklin County (1927, p. 58), Hamilton County (Page's Annotated Gen. Code 1926, sec. 1639), Lucas County (sec. 1532-6), Mahoning County (sec. 1532-4), Montgomery County (sec. 1532-1), Stark County (1927, p. 95), Summit County (Page's Annotated Gen. Code 1926, sec. 1532-2). Court of common pleas, superior court, probate or insolvency court elsewhere, a judge of one of these to be designated by all the judges (Page's Annotated Gen. Code 1926, sec. 1639).	Under 18 (Gen. Code 1926, sec. 1642. For references see also Col. II).	Exclusive original.	Court may remand minor accused of felony to court of common pleas for criminal trial (Gen. Code 1926, sec. 1681). Jury trial may be had on demand or in discretion of court (Gen. Code 1926, sec. 1651).		Juvenile court (domestic-relations court) (Gen. Code 1926, secs. 1532-1, 1532-2, 1532-4, 1532-6, 1639, 1642; 1927, pp. 58, 95).
OKLAHOMA: Supreme court. Criminal court of appeals. District courts. Superior courts. County courts. Courts of common pleas. Family courts. ¹⁸ Justices of the peace. Police judges. Municipal or city courts or municipal criminal courts.	Family court in counties over 90,000 (Supp. 1926, sec. 3056-b). ¹⁸ County court in all counties (Comp. Stat. 1921, secs. 8071, 8072).	Under 16 (Comp. Stat. 1921, sec. 8070).	Exclusive original (Comp. Stat. 1921, sec. 8071). ¹⁸	Court may remand to court of criminal jurisdiction (In re Powell v. State, 6 Okla. Crim. Rep. 495). Jury trial may be had on demand or in discretion of court (Comp. Stat. 1921, sec. 8071).		

¹⁵ In North Carolina any town of 5,000 population not a county seat but having a recorder's court may establish an independent juvenile court, and any county having a city of 25,000 or more as county seat may cooperate with this city in establishment of a juvenile court. The law of 1929 (not applicable to Buncombe, Durham, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Gaston, Guilford, Nash, New Hanover, Pitt, Wake, and Wayne Counties) authorizes any city of 25,000 or more and any county having as county seat a city of 25,000 or more to establish a domestic-relations court, which may be a joint county and city court if the governing authorities so determine.

IN CHILDREN'S CASES AND CASES OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS—Continued

IN OTHER JUVENILE AND FAMILY CASES

OFFENSES AGAINST CHILDREN VIII	DESERTION AND NONSUPPORT IX	ESTABLISHMENT OF PATERNITY AND SUPPORT OF CHILDREN BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK X	ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, SEPARATE MAINTENANCE XI	ADOPTION, GUARDIANSHIP XII	COMMITMENT OF MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN XIII
Misdemeanors: Superior court. County court. Justice of the peace. Recorder's court. Domestic-relations court (Mecklenburg County). Felonies: Superior court.	Abandonment or non-support of wife or child under 18: Misdemeanor (Code 1927, secs. 4447, 4450); Domestic-relations court in Mecklenburg County (exclusive) (1929, ch. 343). For jurisdiction elsewhere see Col. VIII.	Preliminaries, trial: Domestic-relations court in Mecklenburg County, justice of the peace elsewhere (Code 1927, sec. 265; 1929, ch. 343). Voluntary petition by father: Superior court (Code 1927, sec. 277).	Superior court (Code 1927, secs. 1655, 1658, 1660, 1667).	Adoption: Superior court (Code 1927, sec. 182). Domestic-relations court in Mecklenburg County makes preliminary investigations and recommendations (1929, ch. 343). Guardianship: Juvenile court (delinquent, dependent, neglected children), superior court (Code 1927, secs. 5055, 2150).	Feeble-minded: Juvenile or domestic-relations court (delinquent, dependent, neglected children), superior court, county court; court commitment not required in all cases, but applications for admission to institution must be approved by juvenile court (Code 1927, secs. 5039, 5056, 5858, 1929, ch. 343). Epileptic: Juvenile or domestic-relations court (delinquent, dependent, neglected children), superior court (Code 1927, secs. 5039, 5056, 6155; 1929, ch. 343).
Misdemeanors: District court. County court of increased jurisdiction. Justice of the peace or police magistrate. Felonies: District court.	Desertion or nonsupport of wife or child under 16: Felony (Supp. 1913-1925, sec. 9594a1). See Col. VIII.	Preliminaries: County court, justice of the peace or police magistrate (Supp. 1913-1925, sec. 10500a8). Trial: District court (Supp. 1913-1925, secs. 10500a12, 10500a13).	District court (Const., sec. 103; Comp. Laws 1913, sec. 4368).	Adoption: District court, county court of increased jurisdiction (Supp. 1913-1925, sec. 4446). Guardianship: County court (Comp. Laws 1913, sec. 4458).	County court; court commitment not required in all cases (county commissioners of insanity or board of control of institution may commit) (Comp. Laws 1913, sec. 1714).
Misdemeanors: Juvenile court (domestic-relations court). Court of common pleas. Probate court. Justice of the peace. Municipal or police court. Felonies: Court of common pleas.	Abandonment or nonsupport of child under 18: Juvenile court (domestic-relations court). (Gen. Code 1926, sec. 1655). Abandonment or nonsupport of child under 16: Justice of the peace, police court (municipal court), mayor's court (Gen. Code 1926, sec. 13423). Nonsupport of child under 16 or pregnant wife: Misdemeanor or felony (Gen. Code 1926, secs. 12970, 13008, 13009). See Col. VIII.	Preliminaries: Juvenile court (domestic-relations court, exclusive in Lucas County), justice of the peace, mayor's court, municipal court (Gen. Code 1926, secs. 1532-6, 1579-13, 12110; Title 4, ch. 5-1; 1927, pp. 58, 95). Trial: Juvenile court (domestic-relations court, exclusive in Lucas County), court of common pleas, municipal court (Gen. Code 1926, secs. 1532-6, 12110, 12115; Title 4, ch. 5-1; 1927, pp. 58, 95).	Annulment, limited divorce, separate maintenance: No statutory provision. Divorce is granted for causes that in other States are grounds for annulment. Divorce: Court of common pleas (division of domestic relations, exclusive in Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Mahoning, Montgomery, and Stark Counties), insolvency court in Cuyahoga County, probate court in certain counties (Gen. Code 1926, secs. 1532-1, 1532-4, 1532-6, 1629, 10494, 11979; 1927, pp. 58, 95; Addams v. State, 104 O. S. 475).	Probate court (Gen. Code 1926, secs. 8024, 10915).	Juvenile court (domestic-relations court) (dependent or neglected children), probate court (Gen. Code 1926, secs. 1652-1, 1893, 1894, 2046). Court commitment not required in all cases (Gen. Code 1926, sec. 1972).
Misdemeanors: Superior court. County court. Justice of the peace. Municipal or city court or municipal criminal court. Felonies: District court. Superior court.	Nonsupport of child: ¹⁷ Misdemeanor (Comp. Stat. 1921, sec. 1855). See Col. VIII. Desertion of child under 10 or abandonment and nonsupport of wife or child under 15: Felony (Supp. 1926, secs. 1854, 1856). See Col. VIII.	Superior court, county court (Comp. Stat. 1921, secs. 3103, 8059).	Family court, ¹⁸ district court, superior court (Comp. Stat. 1921, secs. 501, 513, 3103; Supp. 1926, sec. 3457-2).	Adoption: Family court, ¹⁹ superior court, county court (Comp. Stat. 1921, secs. 3103, 8048; Supp. 1926, sec. 3457-3). Guardianship: County court (Comp. Stat. 1921, sec. 1431).	County court (Const., art. 7, sec. 13). Court commitment not required in all cases (Comp. Stat. 1921, secs. 9140, 9142).

¹⁷ However, it was held in *State ex. rel. Neville v. Overby*, 54 N. Dak. 295, that the district court in regular session has exclusive jurisdiction in felony cases regardless of age of offender and that the juvenile-court law does not affect this jurisdiction.

¹⁸ Family courts in Oklahoma counties of 90,000 or more were given jurisdiction concurrent with that of county courts, but in 1929 no family court had been organized in the two counties of this size (Oklahoma and Tulsa).

¹⁹ Girl under 18, boy under 21, if parent has custody.

TABULAR SUMMARY OF STATE LAWS RELATING TO ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

COURT SYSTEMS		JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JURISDICTION IN CASES OF DELINQUENCY, DEPENDENCY, AND NEGLECT			COURTS HAVING JURISDICTION	
STATE AND COURTS IN STATE	JUVENILE OR FAMILY COURT SYSTEM	AGE LIMIT	NATURE OF JURISDICTION	EXCEPTIONS OR MODIFICATIONS, PROVISIONS FOR JURY TRIAL	OFFENSES OF MINORS OVER DELINQUENCY AGE	CONTRIBUTING TO DELINQUENCY OR DEPENDENCY
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
OREGON: Supreme court. Circuit courts. County courts. District courts. Justices of the peace. Recorder's or municipal courts.	Circuit court (domestic-relations department) in counties 100,000 or more (1929, ch. 183). Circuit court in counties 35,000-100,000 (Clark's Supp. 1927, p. 980). County court elsewhere (Olson's Oreg. Laws 1920, sec. 9783).	Under 18 (Oreg. Laws 1920, secs. 9801, 9802; 1929, ch. 183).	Exclusive original (Oreg. Laws 1920, secs. 9787, 9812; 1929, ch. 183).	Court may remand to court of criminal jurisdiction (Supp. 1927, sec. 9811). Criminal court convicting child may certify conviction to juvenile court for commitment (Oreg. Laws 1920, sec. 9816). Jury trial (held in same court) may be had on demand or in discretion of court (Oreg. Laws 1920, sec. 9788).		Circuit court (domestic-relations department) in counties 100,000 or more (1929, ch. 183); circuit court and county court elsewhere (Oreg. Laws 1920, secs. 2153, 9787).
PENNSYLVANIA: Supreme court. Superior court. Courts of oyer and terminer. Courts of common pleas. County court (Allegheny County). Courts of quarter sessions. Orphans' courts. Justices of the peace. Magistrate's courts. Municipal court (Philadelphia). Mayor's courts.	County court in Allegheny County (Supp. 1928, sec. 7511). Municipal court in Philadelphia (Stat. 1920, sec. 15711). Court of quarter sessions elsewhere (Supp. 1928, sec. 13447).	Under 16 (Stat. 1920, sec. 15714b; Supp. 1928, secs. 7511, 13447).	Exclusive (Stat. 1920, sec. 15714b; Supp. 1928, secs. 7511, 13447). ²⁰	No jurisdiction of murder charges (Supp. 1928, sec. 13449). Court may remand for criminal trial child over 14 accused of felony (Supp. 1928, sec. 13460).	Municipal court of Philadelphia has jurisdiction of children not under 16 who disobey their parents, are found idle in streets, desert their homes without good and sufficient cause, or associate with vicious or dissolute persons (Stat. 1920, secs. 15714d, 15714e).	Misdemeanor if child is before the juvenile court (Stat. 1920, sec. 13472). See Col. VIII except justice of the peace, magistrate's court, mayor's court (Stat. 1920, sec. 13203).
RHODE ISLAND: Supreme court. Superior court. District courts. Probate courts, municipal court of Providence. ²¹ Justices of the peace.	District court (Public Laws 1926, ch. 860).	Under 16 (delinquent); under 18 (dependent, neglected, and wayward).	Exclusive original.	No jurisdiction of murder or manslaughter. Court may dismiss petition so as to permit criminal proceedings.	See Col. III.	Contributing to dependency or neglect: District court (Gen. Laws 1923, sec. 2047). Contributing to delinquency: Misdemeanor (Gen. Laws 1923, sec. 2032). See Col. VIII.
SOUTH CAROLINA: Supreme court. Courts of common pleas (circuit courts). Courts of general sessions (circuit courts). County courts. Probate courts. Children's court. Magistrate's courts. Civil and criminal court of Charleston. Municipal courts, city court of Charleston. Police court of Charleston. Recorder's courts.	Independent children's court in Greenville County (1927, No. 173). Probate court (separate part) in counties 85,000-100,000 (1923, No. 148, amended by 1925, No. 158, and 1927, No. 136). Municipal court in cities 20,000-50,000 (Code of Criminal Procedure 1922, sec. 51). Probate court elsewhere (Code of Civil Procedure 1922, sec. 201).	Under 16 in counties 85,000-100,000 and in Greenville County; under 17 in cities 20,000-50,000; under 18 elsewhere.	Exclusive original. Concurrent in Greenville County in cases excepted from juvenile-court jurisdiction in counties 85,000-100,000. See Col. V.	Child of 14 accused of felony punishable by not more than 10 years' imprisonment may be held for trial in circuit court in counties 85,000-100,000 and in Greenville County. [Although not stated in the law it would seem that if offense is punishable by more than 10 years' imprisonment the court must remand for criminal trial in counties 85,000-100,000.] Court may remand any child for criminal trial elsewhere and must so remand on request of circuit solicitor if child is charged with crime beyond the jurisdiction of a magistrate (Code of Civil procedure 1922, secs. 203, 206, 209). Jury trial may be had on demand in cities 20,000-50,000 (Code of Criminal Procedure 1922, secs. 51, 55).		Children's court in counties 85,000-100,000 and in Greenville County; county court and circuit court in Greenville County.

²⁰ Courts of common pleas in some counties of Pennsylvania may commit children to the Glen Mills Schools for delinquent children (Stat. 1920, sec. 13364). Magistrates in Philadelphia may still exercise jurisdiction over incorrigible children (Supp. 1928, sec. 13449).

IN CHILDREN'S CASES AND CASES OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS—Continued

IN OTHER JUVENILE AND FAMILY CASES

OFFENSES AGAINST CHILDREN VIII	DESERTION AND NONSUPPORT IX	ESTABLISHMENT OF PATERNITY AND SUPPORT OF CHILDREN BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK X	ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, SEPARATE MAINTENANCE XI	ADOPTION, GUARDIANSHIP XII	COMMITMENT OF MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN XIII
Misdemeanors: Circuit court. County court. District court. Justice of the peace. Felonies: Circuit court.	Nonsupport of wife or child (boy under 16, girl under 18): Felony (Supp. 1927, sec. 2166): Circuit court (domestic-relations department) in counties 100,000 or more (Oreg. Laws 1920, secs. 2151-2153, 9787; 1929, ch. 183). See also Col. VIII.	Preliminaries: Justice of the peace (Oreg. Laws 1920, sec. 2550). Trial: Circuit court (Oreg. Laws 1920, sec. 2553). Defendant may be discharged by justice of the peace before trial, if he pays or agrees to pay a sum agreed to by plaintiff and approved by judge of juvenile court (Oreg. Laws 1920, sec. 2552).	Annulment: Circuit court (Oreg. Laws 1920, sec. 920). Divorce: Circuit court (domestic-relations department) in counties 100,000 or more, exclusive in cases that are uncontested or that involve children under 18 (Oreg. Laws 1920, sec. 920; 1929, ch. 183). Limited divorce, separate maintenance: No statutory provision.	Adoption: Circuit court (domestic-relations department) in counties 100,000 or more (1929, ch. 183), circuit court in counties 35,000-100,000 (Oreg. Laws 1920, sec. 9783), county court elsewhere (Supp. 1927, secs. 9766, 9787, and p. 980). Guardianship: Circuit court in counties 35,000 or more, county court elsewhere (Oreg. Laws 1920, secs. 1311, 3134; Supp. 1927, p. 980).	Feeble-minded: Circuit court (domestic-relations department) in counties 100,000 or more (1929, ch. 183), circuit court in counties 35,000-100,000 (Supp. 1927, sec. 2878 and p. 980), county court elsewhere; court commitment not required in all cases (Oreg. Laws 1920, sec. 2846). Epileptic: Circuit court (domestic-relations department) in counties 100,000 or more (1929, ch. 183), county court elsewhere; court commitment not required in all cases (Oreg. Laws 1920, secs. 2846, 9787).
Misdemeanors: Court of quarter sessions. Municipal court (Philadelphia). County court (Allegheny County). Justice of the peace. Magistrate's court. Mayor's court. Felonies: Court of oyer and terminer. Court of quarter sessions. Municipal court (Philadelphia).	Desertion or nonsupport of wife or child under 16; child over 16, under 21, if incapable of self-support because of physical infirmity (Stat. 1920, sec. 9066): Juvenile court (Stat. 1920, sec. 13453), county court in Allegheny County (jurisdiction exclusive) (Stat. 1920, sec. 7484), municipal court in Philadelphia (jurisdiction exclusive) (Stat. 1920, secs. 15714a, 15714f), court of quarter sessions (criminal action) (Stat. 1920, sec. 9072), court of common pleas (civil action) (Stat. 1920, sec. 9069).	Bastardy, fornication, and nonsupport of illegitimate child are misdemeanors (Stat. 1920, secs. 7700, 7865). See Col. VIII except justice of the peace, magistrate's court, and mayor's court.	Annulment, divorce, limited divorce: Court of common pleas (Stat. 1920, secs. 9141, 9143, 9154, 9158, 9178). Separate maintenance: No statutory provision.	Adoption: Orphans' court (Supp. 1928, sec. 58a-1). In Philadelphia the municipal court exercises concurrent jurisdiction (Supp. 1928, sec. 15713). Guardianship: Orphans' court (Stat. 1920, sec. 8641).	Municipal court in Philadelphia (exclusive) (Stat. 1920, sec. 15714f), juvenile court, court of common pleas, other court of record (county court in Allegheny County, orphans' court, court of quarter sessions, court of oyer and terminer) (Supp. 1928, sec. 14726a-311). Court commitment not required in all cases (Supp. 1928, secs. 14726a-309, 14726a-312).
Misdemeanors: Superior court. District court. Juvenile court. Felonies: Superior court.	District court (Gen. Laws 1923, sec. 6182).	District court (1926, ch. 843).	Annulment: No statutory provision. Divorce is granted for causes that in other States are grounds for annulment (Gen. Laws 1923, sec. 4212). Divorce, limited divorce, separate maintenance: Superior court (Gen. Laws 1923, sec. 4626).	Probate court, municipal court of Providence (Gen. Laws 1923, secs. 4179, 5654). ²¹	District court; court commitment not required in all cases (Gen. Laws 1923, secs. 1656, 1679, 1680).
Misdemeanors: Children's court (counties 85,000-100,000 and Greenville County) (certain offenses). Court of general sessions. County court. Magistrate's court. Police court (Charleston). Civil and criminal court (Charleston). Municipal court. Felonies: Court of general sessions. County court.	Misdemeanor (Criminal Laws 1922, sec. 20; 1923, No. 148, sec. 19, amended by 1927, No. 136): Children's court in counties 85,000-100,000 and in Greenville County. See also Col. VIII except magistrate's court and police court (Const. 1895, art. 5, sec. 21; Code of Civil Procedure 1922, sec. 261).	Preliminaries: Children's court in counties 85,000-100,000 and in Greenville County (1923, No. 148, amended by 1927, No. 136; 1927, No. 173), magistrate's court (Criminal Laws 1922, sec. 707). Trial: Children's court in counties 85,000-100,000 and in Greenville County (1923, No. 148, amended by 1927, No. 136; 1927, No. 173), court of sessions (Criminal Laws 1922, sec. 710). Voluntary petition by father: Children's court in counties 85,000-100,000 and in Greenville county (1923, No. 148, amended by 1927, No. 136; 1927, No. 173).	Annulment: Court of common pleas (Civil Code 1922, sec. 5532), county court (Code of Civil Procedure 1922, sec. 74). Divorce, limited divorce: Prohibited (Const. 1895, art. 17, sec. 3). Separate maintenance: No statutory provision.	Adoption: Children's court in counties 85,000-100,000 and in Greenville County (1923, No. 148, amended by 1927, No. 136; 1927, No. 173), court of common pleas (Civil Code 1922, sec. 5578). Guardianship: Children's court in counties 85,000-100,000 and in Greenville County (delinquent, wayward, defective, neglected, and dependent children and those whose paternity or custody is in question) (1923, No. 148, amended by 1927, No. 136; 1927, No. 173), probate court (Civil Code 1922, sec. 5543).	Children's court in counties 85,000-100,000 and in Greenville County (1923, No. 148, amended by 1927, No. 136; 1927, No. 173), probate court elsewhere (Code of Civil Procedure 1922, sec. 166).

²¹ The municipal court of Providence, R. I., is a probate court having the same jurisdiction as other probate courts in the State.

TABULAR SUMMARY OF STATE LAWS RELATING TO ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

COURT SYSTEMS		JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JURISDICTION IN CASES OF DELINQUENCY, DEPENDENCY, AND NEGLECT			COURTS HAVING JURISDICTION	
STATE AND COURTS IN STATE I	JUVENILE OR FAMILY COURT SYSTEM II	AGE LIMIT III	NATURE OF JURISDICTION IV	EXCEPTIONS OR MODIFICATIONS, PROVISIONS FOR JURY TRIAL V	OFFENSES OF MINORS OVER DELINQUENCY AGE VI	CONTRIBUTING TO DELINQUENCY OR DEPENDENCY VII
SOUTH DAKOTA: Supreme court. Circuit courts. County courts. Municipal courts. Justices of the peace and police magistrates.	County court (Rev. Code 1919, secs. 9973, 9974).	Under 18 (Rev. Code 1919, sec. 9989).	Exclusive original.	Court may permit criminal proceedings (Rev. Code 1919, secs. 9984, 9989). Jury trial may be had in discretion of court (Rev. Code 1919, sec. 10002).		Juvenile court (Rev. Code 1919, secs. 9973, 9974, 10005).
TENNESSEE: Supreme court. Court of appeals. Circuit courts. Criminal courts. Chancery courts. County courts. Probate courts. Juvenile courts. Juvenile and domestic-relations court (Hamilton County). Justices of the peace, recorders, city courts.	Independent juvenile court in Knox County (Private Acts of 1911, ch. 522), counties 11,610-11,620 (Private Acts of 1921, ch. 325), Johnson City (Private Acts of 1921, ch. 319), Kingsport (Private Acts of 1919, ch. 558), cities 160,000 or more (Private Acts of 1921, ch. 407), counties 165,000-220,000 (city judge of county seat presiding) and 33,600-33,700 (city judge or recorder of county seat presiding) (Shannon's Code 1917, sec. 4433a-78, amended by 1921, ch. 99). ²³ Juvenile and domestic-relations court of Hamilton County (Private Acts of 1929, ch. 675). County judge or chairman of county courts elsewhere (Shannon's Code 1917, sec. 4433a-39).	Under 16 in Knox and Hamilton Counties, Johnson City, and Kingsport; under 17 elsewhere.	Exclusive original but see Col. V, par. 4. In counties 33,600-33,700 delinquents are dealt with by the independent juvenile court, dependents by the county court.	No jurisdiction of offenses punishable by life imprisonment or death in Knox County, Johnson City, and Kingsport; no jurisdiction of rape or murder elsewhere (Code 1917, sec. 4433a-67; for references see also Col. II). Court may remand for criminal trial in Knox and Hamilton Counties, Johnson City, and Kingsport; may so remand elsewhere if child proves incorrigible after commitment as delinquent (Code 1917, sec. 4433a-65; for references see also Col. II). Jury trial may be had on demand or in discretion of court (Code 1917, sec. 4433a-45; for references see also Col. II). Criminal court has jurisdiction of child charged with indictable offense, but child arraigned or tried by criminal court may be transferred to juvenile court, in Hamilton and Knox Counties, Johnson City, and Kingsport (for references see Col. II). Child may be transferred on demand to criminal court for trial in Knox County, Johnson City, and Kingsport (for references see Col. II).		Criminal court, circuit court (Code 1917, sec. 4433a-76).
TEXAS: Supreme court. Courts of civil appeals. Court of criminal appeals. District courts and criminal district courts. County courts, county courts at law, and county criminal courts. Commissioner's courts. Justices of the peace. Corporation courts.	District court, criminal district court where established, county court (Rev. Civil Stat. 1925, art. 2329). Corporation court in Port Arthur (concurrent) (1923, ch. 43). Court at law in Texarkana (1923, ch. 64).	Under 16 (dependent and neglected) (Rev. Civil Stat. 1925, art. 2330); under 17 (delinquent boys); under 18 (delinquent girls) (Rev. Criminal Stat. 1925, Code of Criminal Procedure, art. 1083).	Courts in Col. II exclusive original over delinquents; district court exclusive original over dependents (Rev. Civil Stat. 1925, art. 2329).	Jury trial may be had on demand of any person interested or in discretion of court (Rev. Civil Stat. 1925, art. 2334; Rev. Criminal Stat. 1925, Code of Criminal Procedure, art. 1090).		Misdemeanor (Rev. Criminal Stat. 1925, Penal Code, art. 534). See Col. VIII, except justice of the peace (Constitution, art. 5, sec. 19) and corporation court (Rev. Criminal Stat. 1925, Code of Criminal Procedure, art. 62).
UTAH: Supreme court. District courts. Juvenile courts. City courts. Municipal courts. Justices of the peace.	Independent juvenile court (Comp. Laws 1917, sec. 1814).	Under 18. ²⁴	Exclusive original (Comp. Laws 1917, sec. 1815). ²⁴	No jurisdiction of felonies (Comp. Laws 1917, sec. 1823, amended by 1919, special session, ch. 5).		Juvenile court (Comp. Laws 1917, secs. 1815, 1816, 1848).

²³ In Tennessee the following counties and city in addition to Knox County, Johnson City, and Kingsport have independent juvenile courts as indicated in Column II: Union County (11,610-11,620), city of Memphis (160,000 or more), Davidson County (165,000-220,000), and Montgomery County (33,600-33,700).

IN CHILDREN'S CASES AND CASES OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS—Continued

IN OTHER JUVENILE AND FAMILY CASES

OFFENSES AGAINST CHILDREN VIII	DESERTION AND NONSUPPORT IX	ESTABLISHMENT OF PATERNITY AND SUPPORT OF CHILDREN BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK X	ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, SEPARATE MAINTENANCE XI	ADOPTION, GUARDIANSHIP XII	COMMITMENT OF MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN XIII
Misdemeanors: Circuit court. County court. Municipal court. Justice of the peace. Felonies: Circuit court.	Desertion or nonsupport of wife or child under 16: Misdemeanor or felony (Rev. Code 1919, sec. 4108). See Col. VIII except justice of the peace and municipal court (Rev. Code 1919, secs. 4414, 2124).	Preliminaries: Any judge or magistrate having power to commit for trial (see Col. VIII) (1923, ch. 295). Trial: Circuit court (1923, ch. 295).	Annulment: Circuit court (Rev. Code 1919, sec. 131). Divorce, separate maintenance: Circuit court (Rev. Code 1919, secs. 136, 162, 172). Limited divorce: No statutory provision.	County court (Rev. Code 1919, secs. 206, 219).	County court; court commitment not required in all cases (Rev. Code 1919, secs. 5533, 5535; 1921, ch. 235).
Misdemeanors: Circuit court. Criminal court. Justice of the peace, recorder. Felonies: Circuit court. Criminal court.	Nonsupport of wife or child under 16: Juvenile court if defendant pleads guilty, criminal court (Code 1917, secs. 6888a-8, 6888a-11, 6888a-18, 6888a-22); juvenile and domestic-relations court in Hamilton County (exclusive) (Private Acts of 1929, ch. 675). Leaving State after abandoning wife or child under 16: Circuit court, criminal court (Code 1917, secs. 6888a-14, 6888a-17, 6888a-25, 6888a-28).	Preliminaries: Justice of the peace (Code 1917, sec. 7332). Trial: Circuit court (Code 1917, sec. 6069), county court (Code 1917, sec. 7335), juvenile court in counties 11,610-11,620 (Private Acts of 1921, ch. 325). Voluntary petition by father: Circuit court, county court (Shannon's Code 1918, secs. 5402, 5406).	Juvenile and domestic-relations court of Hamilton County (exclusive if custody of child is involved) (Private Acts of 1929, ch. 675), circuit court, chancery court (Code 1917, secs. 4204, 4220).	Adoption: Circuit court, county court (Code 1917, sec. 5402), juvenile court in counties 11,610-11,620 (Private Acts of 1921, ch. 325). Guardianship: Chancery court, county court (Code 1917, sec. 6108).	Juvenile court if child is charged with delinquency, circuit court, chancery court, county court, probate court; court commitment not required in all cases (Shannon's Supp. 1926, secs. 2642a-60, 2642a-64, 2642a-73).
Misdemeanors: Criminal district court. County court or county criminal court. Court at law (Texarkana). Justice of the peace. Corporation court. Felonies: Criminal district court where established, district court elsewhere.	Misdemeanor (Rev. Criminal Stat. 1925, Penal Code, art. 602). See Col. VIII, except justice of the peace (Const., art. 5, sec. 19) and corporation court (Rev. Criminal Stat. 1925, Code of Criminal Procedure, art. 62).	Paternity is established if parents intermarry and the father recognizes the child as his (Rev. Civil Stat. 1925, art. 2581). No other statutory provision.	District court (Rev. Civil Stat. 1925, art. 1906).	Adoption: Court action not required. Statement of adoption must be recorded like deed (Rev. Civil Stat. 1925, art. 42). Guardianship: County court (Rev. Civil Stat. 1925, art. 4102).	County court; court commitment not required in all cases (Rev. Civil Stat. 1925, arts. 3193, 3224, 3227, 3867).
Misdemeanors: Juvenile court. District court. City court. Municipal court. Justice of the peace. Felonies: District court.	Desertion or nonsupport of wife or child under 16: Felony (1921, ch. 148). See Col. VIII. Neglect or abandonment of child under 18: Juvenile court (Comp. Laws 1917, secs. 1815, 1840).	Preliminaries: Justice of the peace (Comp. Laws 1917, sec. 380). Trial: District court (Comp. Laws 1917, sec. 381).	Annulment, divorce, separate maintenance: District court (Const., art. 8, sec. 7; Comp. Laws 1917, secs. 1667, 2995, 3007, 3010, 3011). Limited divorce: No statutory provision.	Adoption: District court (Comp. Laws 1917, sec. 15, amended by 1925, ch. 91). Guardianship: Juvenile court (guardianship of person), district court (Comp. Laws 1917, secs. 1815, 7809).	Court commitment not provided for. State board of insanity commits (Comp. Laws 1917, secs. 5384, 5385).

²⁴ The juvenile court in Utah was given exclusive jurisdiction over dependent, neglected, and delinquent children under 18 (Comp. Laws 1917, sec. 1815), but delinquent children were defined as 18 or under (Comp. Laws 1917, sec. 1829, amended by Laws of 1919, special session, ch. 5). This conflict has not been reconciled by court decision or otherwise.

TABULAR SUMMARY OF STATE LAWS RELATING TO ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

COURT SYSTEMS		JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JURISDICTION IN CASES OF DELINQUENCY, DEPENDENCY, AND NEGLECT			COURTS HAVING JURISDICTION	
STATE AND COURTS IN STATE	JUVENILE OR FAMILY COURT SYSTEM	AGE LIMIT	NATURE OF JURISDICTION	EXCEPTIONS OR MODIFICATIONS, PROVISIONS FOR JURY TRIAL	OFFENSES OF MINORS OVER DELINQUENCY AGE	CONTRIBUTING TO DELINQUENCY OR DEPENDENCY
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
VERMONT: Supreme court. County courts. Chancery court. Probate courts. Municipal courts. Justices of the peace.	Municipal court, justice of the peace (Gen. Laws 1917, sec. 7324).	Under 16.	Exclusive original (Comp. Laws 1917, sec. 7324), but see Col. V.	No jurisdiction of crimes punishable by death (Gen. Laws 1917, sec. 7331). Probate court may commit child under 16 to State industrial school on application of parent or guardian and child under 18 on application of institution for care of destitute children (Gen. Laws 1917, secs. 7195, 7198).		
VIRGINIA: Supreme court of appeals. Circuit courts. Corporation courts. Juvenile and domestic-relations courts. Justices of the peace. Police justices. Trial justices. Courts of law and chancery (Norfolk, Roanoke). Hustings court (Richmond). Hustings court, part 2 (Richmond). Chancery court (Richmond). Law and equity court (Richmond). Law and equity court, part 2 (Richmond).	Independent juvenile and domestic-relations court (Michie's Code 1924, secs. 1905, 1945, 1953a).	Under 18 (Code 1924, sec. 1906).	Exclusive original (Code 1924, secs. 1905, 1911).	Court may permit criminal proceedings against minor 14 or over (Code 1924, sec. 1918).		Juvenile and domestic-relations court (Code 1924, sec. 1950).
WASHINGTON: Supreme court. Superior courts, court commissioners. Police courts, justices of the peace.	Superior court or superior-court commissioner (Pierce's Code 1921, sec. 594).	Under 18 (Code 1921, sec. 593).	Exclusive original (Code 1921, secs. 594, 604).	Court may remand child charged with crime for criminal trial (Code 1921, sec. 604). Jury trial may be had in discretion of court (Code 1921, sec. 594).		Juvenile court (Code 1921, sec. 609).
WEST VIRGINIA: Supreme court of appeals. Circuit courts. Courts of common pleas. Intermediate courts or criminal courts. Domestic-relations courts. County courts (like board of county commissioners in other States). Municipal courts. Justices of the peace.	Domestic-relations court in Cabell County (1921, ch. 168) and Monongalia County (1923, ch. 134). Court of common pleas or intermediate court with chancery jurisdiction where established (Barnes's Code 1923, ch. 46a, sec. 2). Circuit court elsewhere (Code 1923, ch. 46a, sec. 2).	Under 16 (dependent and neglected boys); under 18 (delinquent children, dependent and neglected girls) (Code 1923, ch. 46a, sec. 1; Supp. 1927, ch. 46a, sec. 49). Age limits for neglected include sixteenth birthday for boys, eighteenth birthday for girls.	Exclusive original over delinquents except that where circuit court has jurisdiction and criminal court has been established these two courts have jurisdiction (Code 1923, ch. 46a, sec. 2). Circuit court, court of common pleas, and criminal or intermediate and juvenile courts have concurrent jurisdiction over dependent and neglected children (Code 1923, ch. 46a, sec. 49).	Court may permit criminal proceedings (Code 1923, ch. 46a, sec. 9). Jury trial may be had on demand or in discretion of court (Code 1923, ch. 46a, sec. 2).		Domestic-relations court in Monongalia County (exclusive) (1923, ch. 134). Misdemeanor (Code 1923, ch. 46a, secs. 26, 64). See Col. VIII, including domestic-relations court in Cabell County but not including justice of the peace (1921, ch. 168; Code 1923, ch. 50, sec. 219).

IN CHILDREN'S CASES AND CASES OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS—Continued

IN OTHER JUVENILE AND FAMILY CASES

OFFENSES AGAINST CHILDREN VIII	DESERTION AND NONSUPPORT IX	ESTABLISHMENT OF PATERNITY AND SUPPORT OF CHILDREN BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK X	ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, SEPARATE MAINTENANCE XI	ADOPTION, GUARDIANSHIP XII	COMMITMENT OF MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN XIII
Misdemeanors: County court. Municipal court. Justice of the peace. Felonies: County court. Municipal court.	County court, municipal court, justice of the peace (Gen. Laws 1917, secs. 3537, 6831).	Preliminaries: Municipal court, justice of the peace (Gen. Laws 1917, sec. 3608). Trial: County court (Gen. Laws 1917, sec. 3610).	County court (Gen. Laws 1917, secs. 3567, 3598).	Probate court (Gen. Laws 1917, secs. 3177, 3633; 1923, ch. 60).	Probate court; court commitment not required in all cases (Gen. Laws 1917, secs. 1430, 1431).
Misdemeanors: Juvenile and domestic-relations court. Felonies: Circuit court. Corporation court. Hustings court (Richmond). Hustings court, part 2 (Richmond).	Desertion or nonsupport of wife or child (boy under 16, girl under 17, or child of any age incapacitated for earning a living): Juvenile and domestic-relations court (Code 1924, secs. 1936, 1937a).	Paternity is established if the parents intermarry and the father recognizes the child as his (Code 1924, sec. 5269). No other statutory provision.	Annulment, divorce, limited divorce: All courts with chancery powers (Code 1924, secs. 5103, 5105); Circuit court; corporation court; chancery court (Richmond); hustings court, part 2 (Richmond); law and equity court, part 2 (Richmond); court of law and chancery (Norfolk, Roanoke). Separate maintenance: No statutory provision.	Adoption: Circuit court, corporation court, and hustings courts in cities, circuit court in counties (Code 1924, sec. 5333). Guardianship: Chancery court and hustings court, part 2, in Richmond, circuit court and corporation court in other cities, circuit court elsewhere (Supp. 1928, secs. 5316, 5914).	Juvenile and domestic-relations court, circuit court, corporation court, justice of the peace (Code 1924, secs. 1017, 1078, 1913).
Misdemeanors and gross misdemeanors: ²⁵ Juvenile court. Superior court. Justice of the peace. Police court. Felonies: ²⁵ Superior court.	Desertion or nonsupport of wife or child under 16: Gross misdemeanor (Code 1921, sec. 8828); Justice of the peace in first-class cities, superior court.	Preliminaries: Justice of the peace (Code 1921, sec. 7411-1). Trial: Superior court (Code 1921, sec. 7411-2).	Annulment, divorce: Superior court (Code 1921, sec. 8628). Limited divorce, separate maintenance: No statutory provision.	Adoption: Juvenile court (delinquent or dependent children) (Code 1921, sec. 601), superior court (Code 1921, sec. 9813, amended by 1927, ch. 158). Guardianship: Superior court (Code 1921, sec. 9897).	Juvenile court; court commitment not required in all cases (Code 1921, sec. 4865).
Misdemeanors: Domestic-relations court (certain offenses). Circuit court. Court of common pleas. Intermediate or criminal court. Justice of the peace. Felonies: Circuit court. Intermediate court or criminal court.	Desertion or nonsupport of wife or child under 16: Domestic-relations court in Monongalia County (exclusive) (1923, ch. 134) and Cabell County (1921, ch. 168), juvenile court, circuit court, intermediate or criminal court (Supp. 1925, ch. 144, sec. 16c).	Preliminaries: Justice of the peace (Code 1923, ch. 80, sec. 1). Trial: Circuit court (Code 1923, ch. 80, sec. 1).	Circuit court (Code 1923, ch. 64, secs. 7, 11), also domestic-relations court in Cabell County (1921, ch. 168).	Adoption: Circuit court (Code 1923, ch. 122, sec. 2), also domestic-relations court in Cabell County. Guardianship: County court (see Col. I) (Code 1923, ch. 82, sec. 3).	Court commitment not provided for. County mental-hygiene commission commits (Code 1923, ch. 58a, sec. 4).

²⁵ In Washington felonies are offenses punishable by death or imprisonment in the Washington State penitentiary, misdemeanors are offenses punishable by fine of not more than \$250 or imprisonment in the county jail not more than 90 days, and gross misdemeanors are punishable otherwise (Pierce's Code 1921, sec. 2).

TABULAR SUMMARY OF STATE LAWS RELATING TO ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

COURT SYSTEMS		JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JURISDICTION IN CASES OF DELINQUENCY, DEPENDENCY, AND NEGLECT			COURTS HAVING JURISDICTION	
STATE AND COURTS IN STATE I	JUVENILE OR FAMILY COURT SYSTEM II	AGE LIMIT III	NATURE OF JURISDICTION IV	EXCEPTIONS OR MODIFICATIONS, PROVISIONS FOR JURY TRIAL V	OFFENSES OF MINORS OVER DELINQUENCY AGE VI	CONTRIBUTING TO DELINQUENCY OR DEPENDENCY VII
WISCONSIN: Supreme court. Circuit courts, court commissioners. County courts. ²⁶ Superior courts. Civil court (district court of record in Milwaukee). Municipal courts. Justices of the peace. Police courts.	One of the following courts of record: Circuit court, county court, superior court, municipal court. The judges of these courts designate one of their number annually to hold the juvenile court in the county (Stat. 1927, sec. 48.01). ²⁶	Under 16 (dependent and neglected children); under 17 (delinquent boys); under 18 (delinquent girls).	Exclusive original over children under 16; concurrent with circuit court over delinquents 16 or over.	Court may remand for criminal trial child under 16 accused of felony. Jury trial may be had on demand or in discretion of court.		Misdemeanor (Stat. 1927, sec. 351.20). See Col. VIII except justice of the peace and police court (Stat. 1927, secs. 62.24, 360.01).
WYOMING: Supreme court. District courts or district-court commissioners. Municipal courts. Justices of the peace.	No juvenile-court system, but the law defines delinquents under 21 and dependent and neglected children under 16 and the district court or district-court commissioner hears cases of delinquency without a jury, following the procedure of criminal courts in other respects (Comp. Stat. 1920, secs. 3884-3900).					Contributing to delinquency of child under 18: Misdemeanor (1927, ch. 93). Includes certain acts that in other States are defined as contributing to dependency and as offenses against children. See Col. VIII.

²⁶ The jurisdiction of county courts in Wisconsin is prescribed in local acts. (For examples see Laws of 1925, chs. 22, 75, 145, 315, and Laws of 1927, chs. 154, 219, 232.)

IN CHILDREN'S CASES AND CASES OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS —Continued

IN OTHER JUVENILE AND FAMILY CASES

OFFENSES AGAINST CHILDREN VIII	DESERTION AND NONSUPPORT IX	ESTABLISHMENT OF PATERNITY AND SUPPORT OF CHILDREN BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK X	ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, SEPARATE MAINTENANCE XI	ADOPTION, GUARDIANSHIP XII	MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN XIII
Misdemeanors: Circuit court. County court. Superior court. Municipal court. Justice of the peace, police court. Felonies: Circuit court. County court (no jurisdiction of murder, manslaughter, homicide). ²⁸ Municipal court in Rusk County (no jurisdiction of offenses punishable by more than 5 years' imprisonment).	Desertion or nonsupport of wife or child under 16: Circuit court, county court, municipal court (Stat. 1927, secs. 351.30, 351.31). Abandonment of child under 6: Misdemeanor or felony (Stat. 1927, sec. 351.27). See Col. VIII except justice of the peace and police court (Stat. 1927, secs. 62.24, 360.01).	Preliminaries: Any court of record, ²⁸ court commissioner (except in city 150,000 or more), justice of the peace (Stat. 1927, secs. 166.01, 166.06), superior court and circuit court only in Dane County (1925, ch. 7). Trial: Circuit court (Stat. 1927, sec. 166.04; 1925, ch. 7), county court in certain counties. ²⁸	Circuit court (Stat. 1927, secs. 247.01, 247.28), county court in certain counties, ²⁸ municipal court in Rusk County (1927, ch. 53).	County court (Stat. 1927, secs. 319.01, 322.01).	District court of record in Milwaukee, county court (Stat. 1927, secs. 51.01, 52.02).
Misdemeanors: District court. Municipal court. Justice of the peace. Felonies: District court.	Misdemeanor or felony (Comp. Stat. 1920, secs. 5031, 7090). See Col. VIII.	Preliminaries: Justice of the peace (Comp. Stat. 1920, sec. 7667). Trial: District court (Comp. Stat. 1920, sec. 7671).	Annulment, divorce, separate maintenance: District court (Comp. Stat. 1920, secs. 4985, 4990, 5003). Limited divorce: No statutory provision.	District court (Comp. Stat. 1920, secs. 5018, 7011).	District court (Comp. Stat. 1920, secs. 514, 558).

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